■ LIFESTYLE / E1

Pre-nuptial agreement is first brush with reality before reality bites

■ NEWS / A2

RP's debt-for-equity plan gets support of world's speakers of parliament

■ SPORTS / A23

Pacquiao fights Velasquez today in Los Angeles

■ NEWS / A4

Filipino maid arrested in chop-chop murder of another OFW in Singapore

Imelda on Marcos burial at Libingan: Just say when

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—WHETHER OR NOT SHE HAD an agreement with Malacañang, former First Lady Imelda Marcos appeared confident her husband would finally be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

IMELDA/ A19

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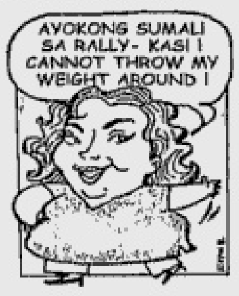
Amalia, excess pounds, bad knees and all, joins Susan

By Gerry Lirio

ANOTHER BIG STAR has joined the growing number of people who want President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down. She does not only

AMALIA/ A8


AYOKONG SUMALI SA RALLY- KASI I CANNOT THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND !

Bishops set special meet

20-30 bishops may belie CBCP stand not asking for GMA resignation

MUSLIM CHILDREN DISCOVER THE JOY OF LEARNING THEIR HERITAGE. For the first time, the Department of Education is offering the Madrasah curriculum in selected public elementary schools in Metro Manila, this one at Maharlika Elementary School in Taguig, which has a large number of Muslim students. Subjects include Arabic and Islamic values in addition to the regulars like English, math, science and Makabayan. *(Story on Page A21.)* REM ZAMORA

By Carla P. Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau* **and Jerome Aning,** *in Manila*

BACOLOD CITY—SOME 20 to 30 bishops are expected to hold a special meeting tomorrow to reassess their stand on President Macapagal-Arroyo's continued stay in office, according to INQUIRER sources.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra yesterday confirmed reports reaching the INQUIRER about the planned meeting, which he said he would attend. He said he did not know the subject for discussion but surmised that it would be "the present situation of the country," to allow the attendees to formulate recommendations for the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' permanent council.

According to several sources, the meeting was called by bishops dismayed by the House of Representatives' vote to "kill" the impeachment case against the President.

The special meeting, supposedly to be held at the CBCP office in Intramuros, Manila, is deemed crucial because the permanent council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday.

The 12-member council chaired by Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla serves as the CBCP's decision-making body when the plenary is not in session.

Sources said the holding of the special meeting belied the constant statement of Capalla, outgoing CBCP president, that the organization would not change the position it announced on July 10.

In that pastoral letter, the CBCP said that while it was not joining calls for Ms Arroyo's resignation, it did not consider such calls as being against the Gospel. It also said the impeachment process and a truth commission would allow the truth to prevail concerning allegations that Ms

BISHOPS/ A19

De La Salle head warns of military intervention

By Ryan D. Rosauro,
and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau,
and Luige A. del Puerto

DISENCHANTMENT AMONG YOUNG officers in the Armed Forces has deepened and this may prompt them to intervene in politics unless President Macapagal-Arroyo steps down, a religious leader and some officers have warned.

The reported restiveness within the military establishment has thrust into the limelight the controversial appointment by Ms Arroyo of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan as officer in charge of the Southern Command.

Br. Armin Luistro FSC, president of the De La Salle University System, said the longer Ms Arroyo stayed in office, the greater the danger was of a military intervention.

Luistro, credited with unifying the country's opposition forces as lead convenor of Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan, spoke before 2,000 students at the Immaculate Conception College in Ozamiz City on Friday.

Luistro said the threat of military adventurism did not come from generals who, he said, enjoyed extravagant lifestyles, but from junior officers exposed to grave dangers in the field.

He said junior officers were disgruntled at the unjust arrangement within the Armed Forces, a situation allegedly being overlooked by Ms Arroyo.

"Capitalizing on these pent-up feelings about the system, the young officers can decide to venture into politics and take advantage of the political crisis to catapult themselves into power," Luistro warned.

A junior officer said Adan's appointment was really a surprise because "this is the first time in the AFP's history that an area command will be taken over by a general on OIC status."

DE LA SALLE/ A19

GMA announces 23¢ cut per kWh in Meralco home bills this month

By Christine O. Avendaño
and Abigail L. Ho

AMID THE HIGH OIL PRICES, POWER rates are going down, at least in Luzon—believe it or not.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced a 23-centavo reduction per kilowatt-hour in the electricity bills of residential consumers of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) in Luzon beginning this month.

Likewise, Meralco is expected to grant another eight-centavo reduction per kWh in the basic power rate next month, according to the President.

"So in between this month and next month, that's about a 31-centavo reduction in power rates," Ms Arroyo said in a roundtable discussion with energy officials aired over the government-run NBN 4 television station.

Ms Arroyo said the power rate reduction was part of government efforts to give people some relief from the high oil prices.

Explaining the power rate reductions, Ms Arroyo pointed out that if one looked at how a household used power, the more it used, the higher it cost.

But looking at the entire power grid, the more people used power, the cheaper it would cost, she said. This had to do with the "economies of scale," she said.

"So 83-percent Meralco capacity is needed in order for [Meralco] to reduce the bill per kWh," Ms Arroyo said.

To make this happen, Ms Arroyo said that Meralco in the next two weeks— beginning yesterday—would be buying power from its own independent power producers, instead of the National Power Corp.

Ms Arroyo admitted this situation created some complications because Napocor was also in the business of selling power like Meralco and it had to sell the power it produced.

But because there was a need for "burden sharing," she said Napocor would use the two weeks to conduct preventive maintenance on its power plants.

"Napocor will time the preventive

GMA/ A20

FROM NEW YORK TO TONDO

9/11 a blessing for the homeless

By Volt Contreras

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE SIGnificance of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States to a duster-clad housewife like Thelma Butron, whose daily chores include sweeping the floor of her pastel-colored home in Tondo, Manila?

Butron is the grateful occupant of MRA2-B2, a unit in a Gawad Kalinga nonprofit housing project for thousands of former slum dwellers in the Baseco reclamation area.

"MRA" stands for Marie Rose Abad, an American finance executive married to a Filipino and one of those who died in the collapsed twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

It's fairly easy to trace how a tragedy in the Big Apple had led to Marie Rose being memorialized in an unlikely place like Tondo. Just plumb her husband's heart, where deep personal sorrow had set off a burst of compassion for total strangers.

In memory of his wife, who had traveled with him to the Philippines and who was no stranger to its face of poverty, the New York-based Rudy Abad has sponsored the construction of an entire "village" for Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries in Baseco.

Forty-eight "GK" units—two of them used as preschool classrooms—now form the Marie Rose Abad Village and have been occupied by their beneficiary families since December.

Rudy Abad's donation covers three row houses (where the addresses begin with MRA 1 to 3) of 16 units each.

A marker bearing Marie Rose's portrait identifies this cluster of homes from the rest of the GK settlements in Baseco, now a colorful neighborhood of 740 units—and counting.

Abad, 59, turned down requests for media interviews related to the 9/11 an-

9/11 A BLESSING/ A8

LYN RILLON

DREAM SCENARIO: GMA, ERAP UNITED. He only looks like former President Joseph Estrada, only heavier, as Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn's look-alike has considerably slimmed down since his knee operation. As "jueteng czar," Hagedorn gets his marching orders from President Arroyo to get rid of the illegal gaming by Sept. 15.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

Debt-equity swap gets int'l backing

By Michael Lim Ubac

NEW YORK—PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM ALL over the world warmly accepted the Philippines' proposal to convert half of the foreign debt of 100 heavily-indebted and middle-income nations into funds for antipoverty programs, at the conclusion of the second World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments on Friday (Saturday in Manila).

A euphoric Speaker Jose de Venecia immediately approached Chilean Sen. Sergio Paez Verdugo, president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) who presided over the conference, just as the latter adjourned the three-day world gathering of 150 leaders of parliaments which opened Sept. 7 at the United Nations.

Verdugo said the specifics of the debt-for-equity program would be taken up during next month's meeting of the IPU executive committee in Geneva, Switzerland.

"That is a very good idea from a good friend. I will (calendar) that issue so that it can be tackled in the IPU's meeting," Verdugo told De Venecia.

De Venecia said the leaders of parliaments had in effect endorsed his proposal because it was included in the final declaration approved by IPU members.

"We didn't have enough time to discuss the specifics of the proposal because I presented it to the body for adoption very late in the day," said De Venecia, who addressed the world body at the UN's General Assembly Hall at 4:49 p.m. Friday (4:49 a.m. Saturday in Manila).

The conference, which convenes every five years, was adjourned shortly after.

"So they immediately inserted our proposal, the specifics of which, however, will be formalized later," said De Venecia, who was accompanied by his wife Gina and Representatives Lorna Silverio, Nerissa Soon-Ruiz and Reylina Nicolas.

Besides the debt-for-equity swap, De Venecia also proposed to the world body the holding of an interfaith dialogue "to isolate extremists who advocate terrorism in the name of religion."

He said the global interfaith proposal between religions should be institutionalized "as part of reform within the UN."

De Venecia will proceed to Washington D.C. on Sept. 20 to make the final presentation of his "debt-for-equity in millennium development goals (MDG) investments" before officials and directors of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Philippine proposal for a global "Debt-for-Equity-in-MDG-Investments" program is aimed at reaching the UN MDG of cutting world poverty by half by 2015.

De Venecia's program proposes to convert 50 percent of the debt-service receipts of lending institutions and multinational commercial banks into "equity development and antipoverty projects that poor countries are undertaking to meet their national MDG goals over 2005-15."

Objects of debt-for-equity investments are reforestation, mass housing, energy, ecotourism, irrigation and postharvest facilities, land reclamation, agricultural productivity and wealth-creating projects.

Instead of going into debt service, the money will be channeled to these antipoverty projects.

The Philippines spends a third of its national budget every year to pay the interest on some $55 billion in external debt.

The De Venecia proposal has earned the crucial endorsement of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan who called it a "creative way of approaching the issue."

The proposal was also endorsed by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, the Paris Club, the British Treasury, Latin American Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Gov't takes VAT info drive on the road

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS EMBARKED ON A massive P15-million information drive to let the public know the effects of the expanded value-added tax (VAT) on various sectors once it is implemented.

Top officials of the Departments of Finance, Trade and Industry, Energy, and Agriculture are going around the country on a roadshow to explain the VAT to entrepreneurs and consumers and correct misconceptions about the law, Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said yesterday.

Bonoan said the government would also come out with TV and radio ads on the VAT, what people can expect once it is implemented, and how they report possible abuses.

"There has been a lot of misinformation, misconceptions about this (law). We also want to get our side out," Bonoan, undersecretary for revenue operations, said at the Kapihan sa Sulo forum yesterday.

"The information campaign is very important here. Now that the TRO is enforced, and there is some uncertainty as to when it will be lifted, we have been going around," he said.

The domestic roadshow started last week in Davao attended by some 700 representatives of small and medium enterprises. In Clark, Pampanga, some 1,000 people gathered for the VAT forum.

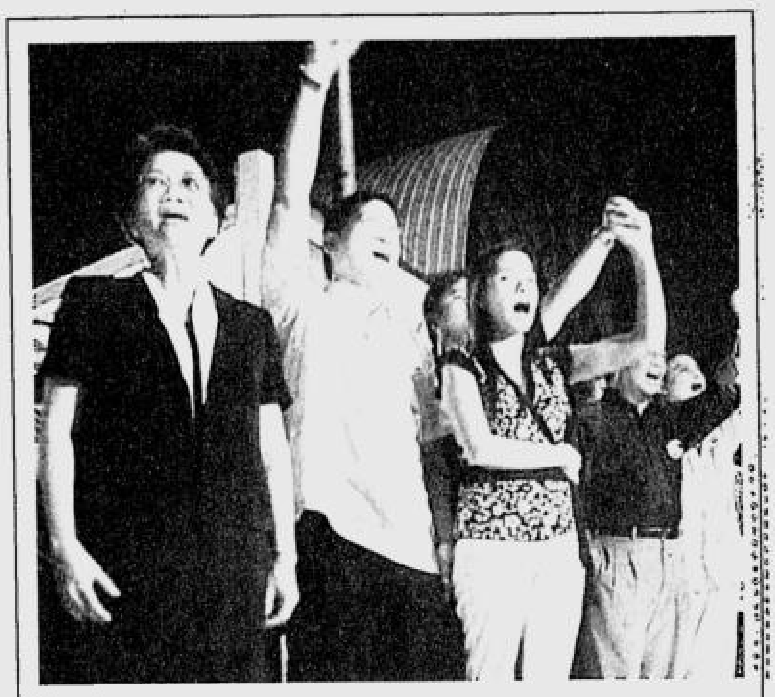
The group will be in Cebu on Monday and in Baguio later in the week, Bonoan said.

The P15-million budget for the information drive is included in the Reformed VAT law or RA 9337, he said.

The Arroyo administration, which is facing the worst political crisis of its term, has received flak for pushing the VAT law and other taxes to address the huge budget deficit.

Surveys have shown that President Macapagal-Arroyo's popularity has dropped to its lowest levels since she assumed office in January 2001 because of the political and economic woes directly affecting the people.

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya, part of the group conducting the VAT roadshow, said the government needed to be more aggressive in explaining the benefits of the law.



THE FIGHT GOES ON

Former President Corazon Aquino, Bro. Eddie Villanueva and Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio continue to protest the outcome of the impeachment vote in the House of Representatives last week, which has given President Macapagal-Arroyo respite for now. The La Salle Green Hills campus on Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, is the scene of weekly evening protests.

LYN RILLON

For Imee et al., Monday is day of reckoning

ILOCOS NORTE REP. IMEE MARcos and other members of the House minority bloc who either abstained or failed to vote when the House plenary deliberated on the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo will be expected to account for their actions in a meeting tomorrow.

"We'll ask them to explain why they acted the way they did during the day of reckoning," said House Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Rolex Suplico.

Aside from Marcos, the other members of the minority who failed to vote were Caloocan Representatives Luis Asistio and Oscar Malapitan, Valenzuela Rep. Antonio Serapio, Quezon City Rep. Vincent Crisologo, Bulacan Rep. Pablo Pancho and Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago.

Maguindanao Rep. Bai Sendig Dilangalen abstained.

Dilangalen said that while she did not agree with the way the House committee on justice dismissed all three complaints, she also did not believe in impeaching the President because her mandate was not legitimate.

Like Marcos, Santiago had signed the impeachment complaint but did not vote in the plenary.

And like Marcos who flew to Singapore, Asistio went to the United States, thus avoiding the marathon House deliberations from Sept. 5 to Sept. 6.

Suplico said that Imee should have told the opposition leaders "at the earliest opportune time" that her failure to vote was forced on her by a family decision and her mother Imelda's support for President Arroyo.

"We would have understood. Her explanation seems to be an afterthought," he said.

Marcos said she should not be blamed for the failure of the impeachment bid as her vote could not have overturned the 158-51-6 decision to accept the House justice committee report dismissing the impeachment complaints against the President. *Norman Bordadora*

Fuel prices rise anew

AS WORLD OIL PRICES CONTINUE to breach historic highs, oil firms Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc. and Total (Philippines) Corp. yesterday raised gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter and cooking gas prices by 50 centavos per kilogram.

Caltex and Total led the price hikes at 12:01 a.m., followed by Shell at 6 a.m.

New players Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. also increased gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by the same levels at noon and 6 p.m., respectively.

Petron Corp. and Flying V will implement a similar price increase at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

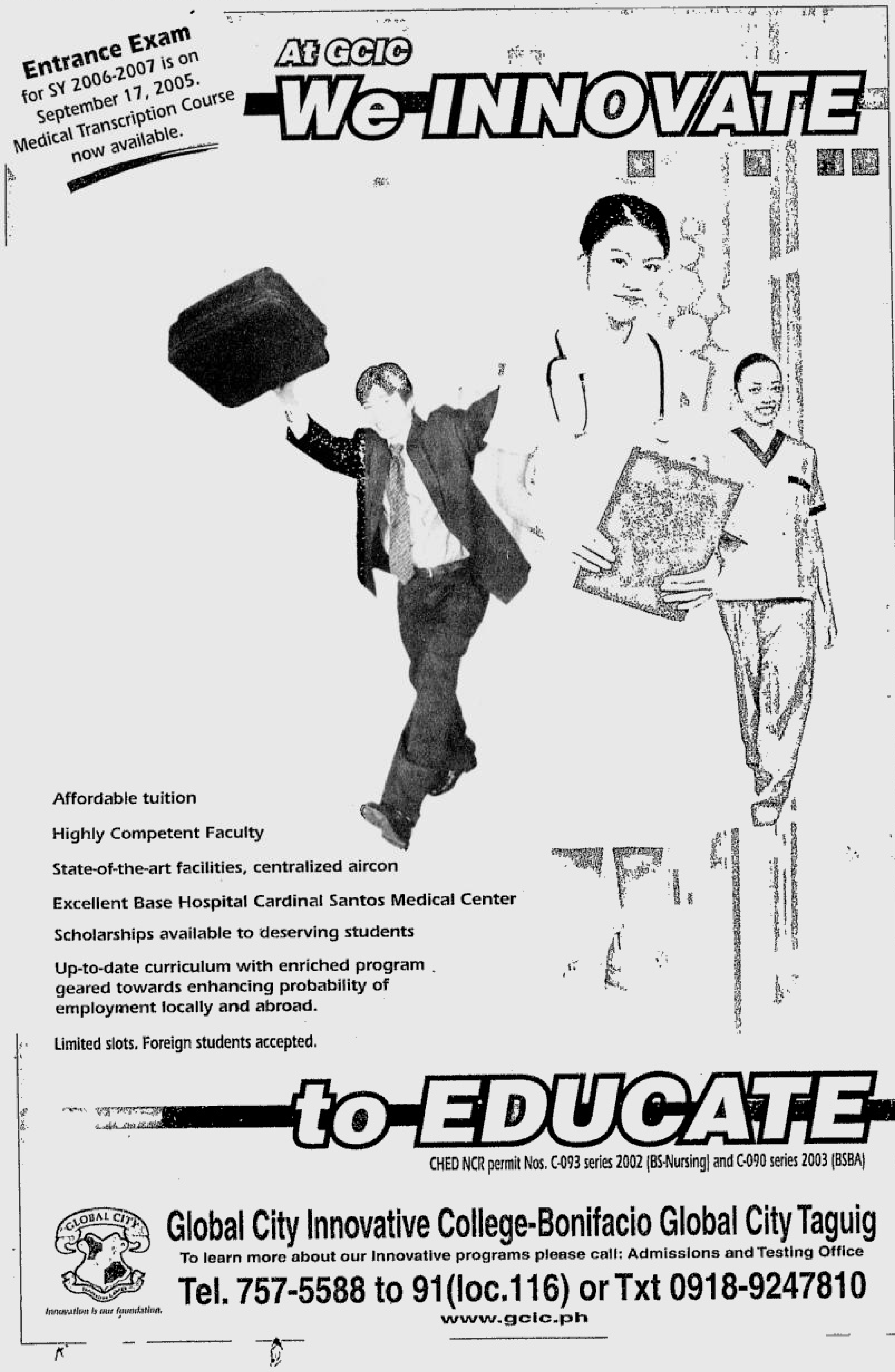
For the past two weeks, world oil prices have been soaring to unprecedented levels, fueled by strong demand from the United States and China, and various external factors.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude hit a September average of $57.57 a barrel from $56.60 a barrel in August. It reached its highest price of $59.10 a barrel Aug. 29.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also surged to an average of $81.80 a barrel in the first eight days of the month, up by close to $8 from the August average of $73.19 a barrel. Its peak price was recorded just this month at $90.20 a barrel on Sept. 1.

MOPS-based diesel likewise soared to a September average of $80.91 a barrel, jumping more than $7 from last month's average of $73.82 a barrel. Its highest ever price was recorded on Aug. 31 at $83.47 a barrel.

The international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas also jumped $36 to $440.20 per metric ton (MT) this month, from $404.20 per MT in August and $400.10 per MT in July. *Abigail L. Ho*



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- Cultural Market & Regional Exhibits at the Plaza Rizal at 9AM
- Food Festival at the Plaza Rizal at 10AM
- Festival Watch: "Tabak Festival" at the Plaza Quezon at 4PM
- Best in the Road: 1st Southern Luzon Cars and Motorcycles Show along Magsaysay Avenue at 6PM
- Cultural Presentation at the Plaza Quezon at 6PM
- Musical Artists Extravaganza with Miles Poblete and Local Band at the Plaza Quezon at 7PM
- Jerome Sala Bicol Festival Concert Tour at the UNC Gymnasium at 7PM
- 17th Bicol Dance Showdown at the Plaza Quezon at 8PM
- Intensity G/ SMB Street Party feat. Reggae Mistress and Red Sector along Magsaysay Avenue at 9PM

September 17 (*CAMARINES NORTE DAY*)
- Cultural Market & Regional Exhibits at the Plaza Rizal at 9AM
- Food Festival at the Plaza Rizal at 10AM
- Festival Watch at the Plaza Quezon at 10AM
- Fluvial Procession along Naga River starting at 1PM
- Cultural Presentation at the Plaza Quezon at 6PM
- Karangahan Philippines Dance Co. at the Plaza Quezon at 7PM

September 18 (*SORSOGON PROVINCE/CITY DAY*)
- Cultural Market & Regional Exhibits at the Plaza Rizal at 9AM
- Food Festival at the Plaza Rizal at 10AM
- Launching of Pasyalan 2006 Tiriladan sa Dalan at the Plaza Quezon at 10AM
- Festival Watch at the Plaza Quezon at 4PM
- Cultural Presentation at the Plaza Quezon at 6PM
- Intensity G Concert at the Plaza Quezon feat. Session Road and Melissa Ricks at 7PM

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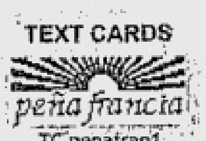

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Metro cops raise alert status on 9/11

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police goes on heightened alert today in Metro Manila on the fourth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the police raised the alert status although they had no information about specific terrorist threats on the weekend.

"While there's no special threat, we should have our preparations in place," he told reporters yesterday.

Bataoil said the police would also continue to monitor the campaign to force President Macapagal-Arroyo out of office, "to prevent those who want to take advantage of the present peace and order situation."

He said that outside Metro Manila, the district police commanders would make the decision to raise the alert levels in their respective jurisdictions.

On Monday, the National Capital Region Police Office will raise the alert status to "full alert" in anticipation of a transport strike against spiraling fuel prices. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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Examination (2/F CD Hospital Conference Room)	Sept 17	Announcement of Accepted Trainees	Nov 11
Interview (By Department Training Committee)	Sept 21 - 23	BLS-ACLS Seminar	Nov 21-Dec 10
Posting of Accepted Pre-Residents	Sept 30	Other Hospital-Based Programs	Jan 2006

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5.3 Medical School Diploma
5.4 Class Ranking
5.5 Certificate of Internship
5.6 PRC Certificate
5.7 Itemized Board Rating
6. Others
6.1 Three identical passport-size color photos taken within the last month
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ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FELLOWS

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TONG AIK
UNDERTAKERS

UNDERTAKERS retrieve body parts believed to be that of a Filipino maid found in Singapore's posh Orchard Road district. Another Filipino maid is a suspect in the slaying. AFP

Pinay maid nabbed in killing of another Pinay in Singapore

SINGAPORE—A 29-YEAR-OLD Filipino maid was arrested here Saturday for the murder of another woman, also believed to be a Filipino, whose head and limbs were found in the Orchard Road shopping district, police said.

The suspect, whose identity cannot be revealed until she is charged in court, was arrested at her employer's apartment, where a cleaver and red plastic bags were seized, within 12 hours of the remains' discovery on Friday.

The suspect is to be charged in court on Sunday [today] with murder, police said. If convicted, she will receive a mandatory sentence of death by hanging.

A street-cleaner was carrying out her rounds outside a metro station at the posh Orchard Road district at noon Friday when she came across an oblong sports bag that turned out to contain a human head and four limbs, police said.

The head was in a red plastic bag while the limbs were in two black trash bags. Hours later, a woman's torso was found at MacRitchie Reservoir, a heavily wooded park several kilometers from where the head and limbs were discovered.

"Police are working on the possibility that all the body parts found yesterday are from the same person. Analysis and tests are presently being conducted by the Health Sciences Authority," a police statement said.

"Based on investigations, we believe that the victim is a 26-year-old Filipina domestic worker," it said, adding that the two women were believed to have known each other.

The case comes 10 years after a Filipino maid, Flor Contemplacion, was hanged in Singapore after being found guilty of killing another Filipino maid and a four-year-old Singaporean boy.

The execution triggered a bitter diplomatic row between the Philippines and Singapore.

In Manila, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said Saturday labor attaché Miriam Cuasay had met with the suspect in Singapore and the Philippine government was looking into extending legal aid to her.

Sto. Tomas declined to provide the identities of the suspect or victim, saying their families had not yet been notified. She also declined to hazard a possible motive.

The murder uncovered Friday was the latest in a series of crimes involving foreign domestic helpers in Singapore. Some 140,000 women work here as maids, mostly from the Philippines, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

On Sept. 5, two young Indonesian maids narrowly escaped the death sentence after being found guilty of homicide for the killing of their Singaporean employer, but they were handed lengthy jail terms.

The new case resembled another recent "body parts" crime here.

In June, a 50-year-old Singaporean man, Leong Siew Chor, was charged with murdering his colleague and alleged mistress, 22-year-old China national Liu Hong Mei, whose body was chopped up and scattered in a river. *AFP*

GMA flies to US day later

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will leave for New York tomorrow night—not today as earlier planned.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the President could afford to leave a day later than scheduled since her earlier plan to go to Saudi Arabia before the United States did not push through.

Bunye told reporters the President would be in New York in time for the holding of summits and meetings that she would be attending there.

Incidentally, the President's new departure date on Monday was also the "Day of national prayer, conversion, reparation and consecration for the nation" that she declared last week in the aftermath of the House decision to junk the impeachment case against her.

Ms Arroyo will fly to New York on a Philippine Airlines direct commercial flight, Bunye said.

The other members of the President's delegation will leave on separate commercial flights, Bunye said, noting that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was the first to leave last Friday night.

Ms Arroyo is expected to preside over the UN Security Council meeting on Sept. 14.

According to foreign department officials, Ms Arroyo would first attend the UN-Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) meeting on Tuesday.

While in New York, she would speak on five occasions, including at the UN Security Council meeting, UN-Asean meeting and the UN world summit.

The President is expected to return home on Sept. 17. *Christine O. Avendaño*

Correction

A STORY in the Sports section, "Getting a kick out of the love of her life," on page A29 of the Sept. 9 issue misstated that Helena Benitez was the country's first woman senator. The Philippines' first woman senator was Geronima T. Pecson. She was elected in 1947.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 8974793-94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 8978808 Local 342.

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FESTIVAL Highlights

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Sep 11 - 15	Oragon Nights	Lolo's Bar
Sep 16 - 18	Eric & Toko	Lolo's Bar
Sep 10	Starmark Café Street Party	Starmark Café
Sep 13	Hale Concert	Magsaysay Ave.
Sept. 15-16	Naga City Sports Council Events	Peñafrancia Landing Arch Area
Sep 15 - 17	SMART Buddy FIESTAmazing Fair	UNC Open Grounds
Sep 17	SMART Buddy FIESTAmazing Concert	UNC Sports Palace

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SWS: Half of Pinoys favor people power

ONE OF EVERY TWO FILIPINOS FAVORS using "people power" to remove President Macapagal-Arroyo from office, results of a nationwide Social Weather Stations survey released yesterday showed.

Fifty-one percent of those polled from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 said they were in favor of a people power revolt should the impeachment case against the President not push through.

On Sept. 6, lawmakers in the House voted 158-51 to uphold the justice committee resolution junking the three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo. However, subsequent mass actions have so far been desultory, failing to stir up a popular uprising.

The percentage scores for and against people power were 62-25 in Metro Manila, 51-28 in the rest of Luzon, 40-31 in the Visayas, and 53-21 in Mindanao, with the remainder of 100 percent being the undecided in each area.

While the middle to upper or ABC classes were split 43-42 on the use of people power, Classes D and E were highly in favor of its use (51-26 for Class D and 54-18 for Class E).

Large majorities in all study areas were for impeachment: 90 percent in Metro Manila, 82 percent in Mindanao, 79 percent in the rest of Luzon, and 69 percent in the Visayas. Overall, 79 percent wanted the President impeached.

The higher the socioeconomic class, and the higher the schooling, the greater the support for either the impeachment or resignation of President Arroyo.

The key factor in the negative sentiment was the belief of most Filipinos (57 percent of the respondents) that Ms Arroyo's admitted phone calls to "a Comelec official" amounted to instructing him to cheat in the 2004 election, and were not merely meant to protect her votes as she had claimed in her June 27 apology.

Among the minority 36 percent accepting that she had called the Comelec official only to protect her votes, 68 percent were proimpeachment, 44 percent were proresignation, and only 35 percent were propeople power.

For the survey, SWS conducted face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. Sampling error margins were at plus or minus 3 percent for national percentages and plus or minus 6 percent for area percentages.

Used vehicles ban stays—Palace

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY DENIED IT HAD plans to revoke an executive order banning the importation of used vehicles into the Subic Bay Freeport as alleged by Sen. Richard Gordon, who had threatened to break away from the Arroyo administration over the issue.

According to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, he was told by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita that he had not seen or heard of a new executive order that would revoke EO 156, as Gordon had claimed.

"I should know," Bunye quoted Ermita as saying.

EO 156 bans the importation of right hand-drive vehicles because of the many complaints about the safety of the vehicles that had been converted to left hand-drive.

Bunye also denied Gordon's allegation that the planned revocation of EO 156 was a trade-off for Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay's withdrawal of his signature from the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo last month.

"This kind of talk is pure speculation ... we believe that no deals were made during the impeachment vote," Bunye said in an interview with dzEC radio.

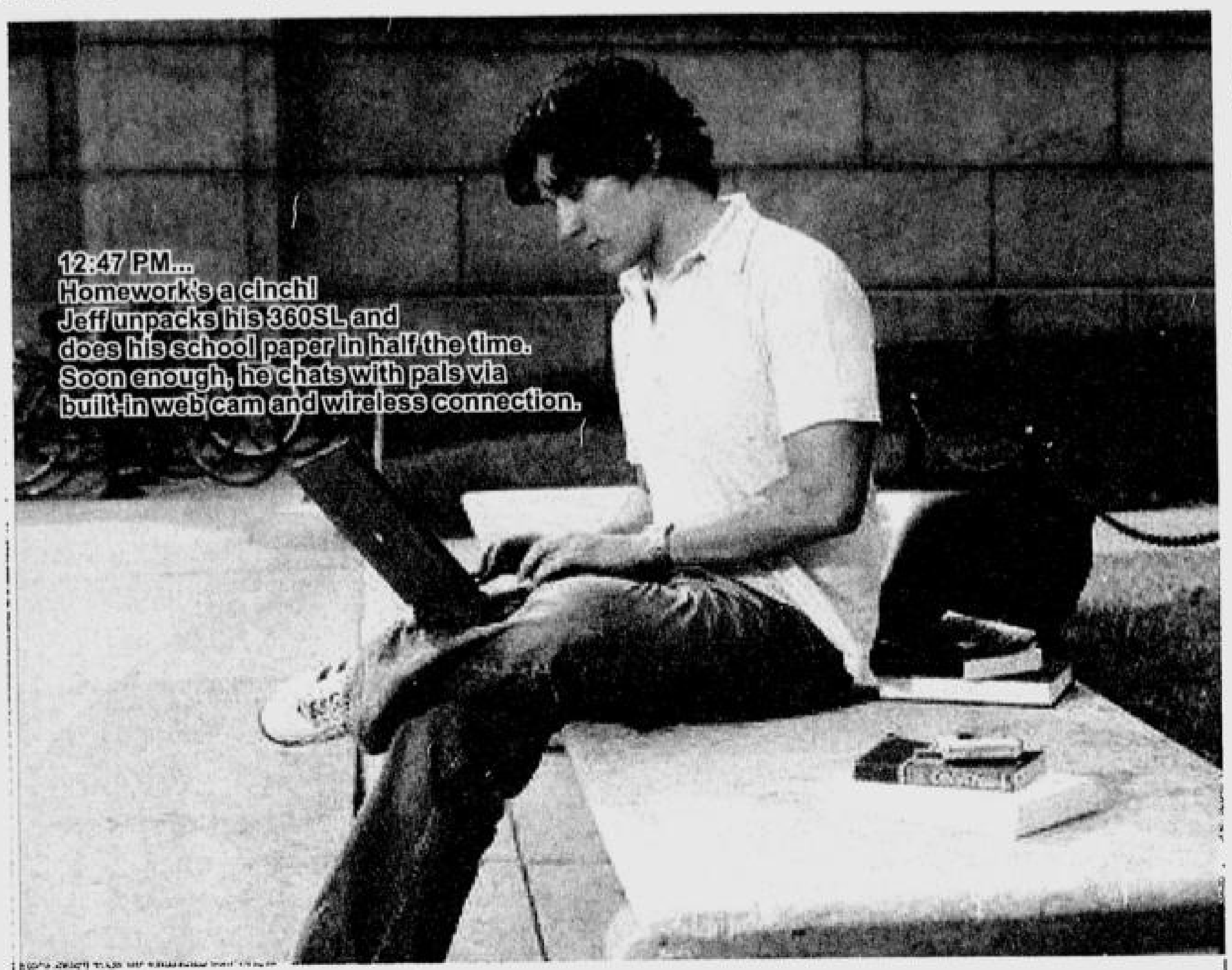
He also denied any knowledge of Gordon's claim that Magsaysay was brought to Malacañang before his turnabout by his cousin, Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, and sister, Rep. Milagros "Mitos" Magsaysay.

Bunye said he did not know of any other authority allowing the importation of right hand-drive vehicles into the country.

Gordon said he had proof that the Magsaysays had secured a recommendation from the Palace legal office for the revocation of EO 156.

Governor Magsaysay yesterday accused Gordon of lying when he claimed that the governor had lobbied for the repeal of the order banning the importation of used cars through the Subic Bay Freeport in exchange for the political support of the Magsaysay clan.

Magsaysay also denied that he owned or managed Subic Bay Motors which imports used vehicles into Subic. *Christine Avendaño and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



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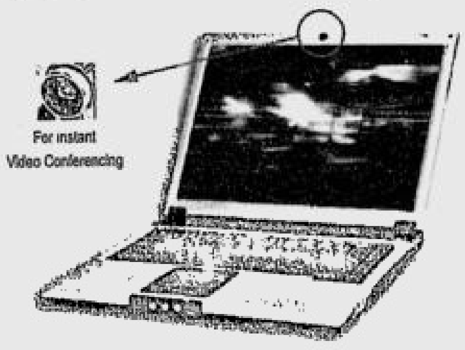

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The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming – DOT

RUSSIANS, NOW THE world's top spenders in international tourism, are the next target of the Department of Tourism.

"Russia has become one of the emerging sound market economies with healthy trade and budget surpluses. Russians now have more disposable income, which they spend on international travel," Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said in a statement.

Durano said Russian tourists spent an estimated $12 billion in the last three years.

Among the DOT's target markets is Russia's East Asian city of Vladivostok, which is experiencing an economic boom owing to its proximity to the Korean peninsula, Japan and China.

Durano said that with the right tour package, prospective tourists from Vladivostok could easily be lured to the Philippines, which is the nearest tropical destination.

Edward Grigoriev, DOT's market representative in Moscow, reported that the tour industry in Russia demonstrated dynamic growth in the last few years. Its outbound travelers in 2004 totaled 5,978,000, ranking 10th in the world.

Southeast Asian destinations, including the Philippines, took a 12-percent share of the total outbound volume from Russia.

Based on recent arrival numbers released by the DOT Statistics Division, the number of Russian tourist arrivals in the Philippines grew a remarkable 154.2 percent from January to July this year, with more than 5,000 Russians visiting the country. *Jerome Aning*

Fil-Am journalist dies at 56

FILIPINO-AMERICAN journalist Mercideta (Merci) Tira-Andrei, former foreign correspondent of the Philippines News Agency, died at her home in Virginia, USA, after suffering a heart attack on Sept. 6. She was 56.

She is survived by her husband Codin and children Viktor, 19, and Amanda, 17.

Tira-Andrei was preparing dinner for her family when she complained of a severe headache and collapsed, family friend Bing McBrigin said.

Paramedics rushed her to the nearest hospital before taking her by helicopter to Washington Hospital.

Doctors there tried but were unable to revive her. An autopsy showed three blocked arteries.

Tira-Andrei covered the White House for over 20 years for several news outfits, including the local BusinessWorld. She also wrote for several Filipino-American newsletters in Washington, Virginia and Maryland.

Her brother-in-law Mesemo Bonilla said her remains would be cremated with interment tentatively set for Sept. 14 in Virginia. *PNA*

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

9/11 a blessing for the homeless

From page A1

niversary (including one made by this paper).

Mike Goco, his classmate at the Ateneo de Manila University and now GK finance officer, told the INQUIRER that the businessman was "still in mourning" and that the tragedy was "still too fresh."

Abad may be averse to publicity, but in a video-documentary for GK that the group carries on its website (gawadkalinga.org), he recounted how he turned his grief into a source of inspiration:

"Marie and I have been very fortunate in life. We've had a good life, a good living. But we are aware of the poverty [here], the slums, ... the desolation, the naked children, people without shoes and their cardboard homes.

"And she said, 'I don't know how or when, but someday I hope to be able to do something about these children, about these people. Next time I'll come back, I'll be ready.'"

"What it meant to me was a village in her name ... to perpetuate her legacy."

Target: Baseco

Goco said it was through him that Abad learned of Gawad Kalinga, one of the most lauded civic organizations in the country which has moved close to 13,000 squatter families into 530 settlements nationwide.

The settlements come with paved streets, activity spaces and nonformal education centers run by volunteers.

Spearheaded by the Catholic lay movement Couples For Christ, GK set its sights on Baseco in the aftermath of the Jan. 11, 2004 fire that reduced the bayside colony that was home to some 6,600 families to a sooty wasteland.

"He asked me one day about Gawad Kalinga, but I said it will take me long to tell him everything. So I just referred him to our website," Goco said of Abad.

"He became interested in what we're doing, saying it's the kind of work his wife would have liked. And I thought he was just thinking of donating one or two units," Goco added, smiling.

Myra Ortega, the GK partnership management officer who handled Abad's sponsorship, said the widower provided funding for 50 units to the tune of $50,000.

DEEP personal sorrow over the death of his wife led Rudy Abad to build an entire village of 48 houses in Baseco in Tondo named Marie Rose Abad, thanks to her husband's donation of $50,000. TV GRAB

Eventually, 48 units were built. The rest of the money was used for site improvements like brick-tiled streets and flower boxes.

'Don't worry'

According to a Sept. 10 feature on the Abads on the nynewsday.com, Rudy and Marie Rose first met in 1970 in the United States during a Merrill Lynch training program.

They got married four years later. (They have no children, according to Goco.)

On that fateful day, Marie Rose was 49 and a senior vice president at the investment banking firm Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, which had been holding office in the WTC's south tower since 1985.

She was on the 89th floor of the building while Rudy was at their home in Woodbury, New York, doing his daily treadmill exercises, when the first of the two airplanes struck the north tower at 8:45 a.m.

Marie Rose phoned Rudy from her office and said: "Don't worry."

He asked her what was going on, and she told him to turn on the TV.

The second plane hit, this time the building where Marie Rose worked, at 9:03.

In the GK documentary, Abad recalled: "Around 9:25 she called me again and said, 'It's getting too smoky; we're being moved. This might be my last call.'"

"She said, 'I'll see you later,'" he continued, unable to hold back his tears. "Her last words to me were, 'Pray, pray, please.' And from that moment on I prayed ... and waited..."

Two days after the attack, Abad said, he was still "believing that she's going to come out [alive]."

'Not done yet'

The rest of the video showed Abad in better spirits and being tearfully hugged by Baseco housewives during the turnover program for his donated homes.

Abad, a GK partner, said: "I knew I was helping people but I didn't know [until I saw the finished site] the extent of what I was doing—lives changed for good... And I'm not done yet. I'm not done yet."

"Marie Rose Abad will live forever," the video concluded.

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It is time for the Filipino civil servant to take center stage as we bridge the gap between government and the people, by being the best servant-leaders that we could become. I call on you to be by my side as we redouble our efforts to fight poverty, prevent corruption, and promote a system of laws, and not of men, for the greater good of the nation.

Let us have a fresh start based on mutual respect, commitment, unity and teamwork. Let us lead the nation and serve the people, and take them to the threshold of a brighter future.

Thank you and God bless the Philippines!

MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

POMA Hologram # 32201

Amalia, excess pounds, bad knees and all, joins Susan

From page A1

have a big reputation in Philippine movies. She's big, period.

Actress Amalia Fuentes, 65, said if not for the excruciating pain in her knees, she would be joining Susan Roces, her one-time rival on the big screen, and former President Corazon Aquino in street rallies demanding President Arroyo's ouster.

She's overweight, she admitted, and lately this has compounded her knee problems. "For sometime, I was walking using a cane," Fuentes said.

Susan's scoliosis

It was a source of wonder and pity seeing Roces everywhere in her drive to unseat President Arroyo, she added.

Unknown to the public, Roces suffers from scoliosis but she has neither publicly acknowledged nor complained about it, according to Fuentes.

It was a tough act for Roces, she added, to stand for hours, walk down the streets and sit for more hours watching the impeachment proceedings.

Roces is 64 years old while Ms Aquino is 72. Still, Roces and Aquino had all the reasons to be indignant, she said, adding that Roces felt her husband had been wronged, while Ms Aquino had always been in the forefront in the fight for good government.

No political person

Fuentes said she was not a political person and she had nothing personal against Ms Arroyo, but she was talking now because the House decision to kill the impeachment complaints against her only stifled all the questions on her mind about her presidency.

"If she really has nothing to hide, Ms Arroyo should have come clean," said Fuentes who, in her show biz heyday, had a reputation for being outspoken and *mataray* (feisty).

She was referring to the majority vote in the House of Representatives last Tuesday upholding a committee report that there was no basis for impeaching Ms Arroyo.

"She should not have allowed her allies in Congress to kill the complaint. She should have told them instead: 'Hey, you are all my friends, but allow me to clear my name once and for all.' But now, where will our country go?" Fuentes said.

"We should thank, in fact, encourage Cory and Susan and all the others for doing all that. They have become the police checking government abuses. Every citizen has a duty to this country," she added.

Amalia's 'kumare'

Like former President Joseph Estrada, Ms Arroyo, then a senator, stood as a sponsor in Fuentes' daughter Liezl's wedding to actor Albert Martinez.

"My daughter had this television show and she had a chance to interview (Ms Arroyo). She liked her and so she got her as *ninang* (godmother)," she said. On the other hand, Roces stood as Liezl's baptismal sponsor.

Fuentes said Ms Arroyo had said sorry on national television, but did not clarify or admit what she was apologizing for.

"I've been watching the news and the hearings," she said. "Am I, like all others, not entitled to know the truth, to know what really happened in the elections?"

The whole process, she said, only destroyed the very purpose of the elections. "The next time there is an election," she said, "I won't go out and vote. What for? The winner is now predetermined. Other people [probably] think this way."

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Katrina toll may be lower than feared

NEW ORLEANS—ALARMING predictions of as many as 10,000 dead in New Orleans may have been greatly exaggerated, with authorities saying that the first street-by-street sweep of the swamped city revealed far fewer corpses than feared.

"Some of the catastrophic deaths that some people predicted may not have occurred," said retired Marine Col. Terry Ebbert, the city's homeland security chief.

He declined to give a revised estimate on Friday. But he added: "Numbers so far are relatively minor as compared to the dire projections of 10,000."

The encouraging news came as workers repairing New Orleans' system of levees and water pumps projected Friday that it will take a month to dry out the city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Authorities officially shifted most of their attention to counting and removing the dead after spending days cajoling, persuading and all but strong-arming the living into leaving the city because of the danger of fires and disease from the fetid floodwaters.

Ever since the hurricane struck Aug. 29, residents, rescuers and cadaver-sniffing dogs have found bodies floating in the waters, trapped in attics or left lying on broken highways. Some were dropped off at hospital doorsteps or left slumped in wheelchairs out in the open.

Mayor Ray Nagin suggested last weekend that "it wouldn't be unreasonable to have 10,000" dead, and authorities ordered 25,000 body bags. But soldiers who had been brought in over the past few days to help in the search were not seeing that kind of toll.

"There's nothing at all in the magnitude we anticipated," said Maj. Gen. Bill Caldwell, commander of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Ebbert said the search for the dead will be done systematically, block-by-block, with dignity and with no news media allowed to follow along. "You can imagine sitting in Houston and watching somebody removed from your parents' property. We don't think that's proper," he said.

The US Army Corps of Engineers said most of the city could be drained by Oct. 2, but some of the eastern areas of New Orleans and the hard-hit community of Chalmette could be under water until Oct. 8. Plaquemines Parish, which suffered a storm surge from the coast, could take another 10 days to drain.

The Corps had previously said it could take up to 80 days to drain the city. Friday marked the first time engineers offered detailed time tables.

The effort to get water out of the city, which had been 80 percent covered following the storm and levee breaches, was helped by dry weather and gaps blown in the levees to allow floodwaters to drain out.

Over the past few days, police and soldiers trying to rescue the living marked houses where corpses were found, or noted their location with global positioning devices, so that the bodies could be collected later.

A dozen boats awaiting calls to retrieve bodies were lined up early Friday on an interstate ramp that was being used as a makeshift boat launch. Soldiers also hauled the last of the bodies out of the convention center, which became an increasingly violent and chaotic place before the evacuees were finally removed a week ago. *AP*

Relief head dumped

WASHINGTON—THE ADMINISTRATION dumped FEMA Director Michael Brown as commander of Hurricane Katrina relief operations Friday.

Brown, who had come to personify a relief operation widely panned as bumbling, is being replaced by Coast Guard Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, who had been in charge of relief, recovery and rescue efforts for New Orleans.

The decision to order Brown back to Washington from Louisiana—he remains director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency—marked the administration's latest attempt to assert leadership in the aftermath of the devastating storm, including the weakest public opinion polls of Bush's time in office.

One Republican welcomed Brown's ouster with unusually sharp language. "Something needed to happen. Michael Brown has been acting like a private instead of a general," said Sen. Trent Lott of Mississippi, whose state was hit hard by the storm.

Senate Democrats, who have been sharply critical of Bush's response to the storm, said the president should not have left Brown as head of FEMA. In a letter to the president, the Democratic leader, Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, and three other top Democrats urged the FEMA director's dismissal.

He "simply doesn't have the ability or the experience to oversee a coordinated federal response of this magnitude," wrote Reid and Senators Dick Durbin of Illinois, Chuck Schumer of New York and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. *AP*

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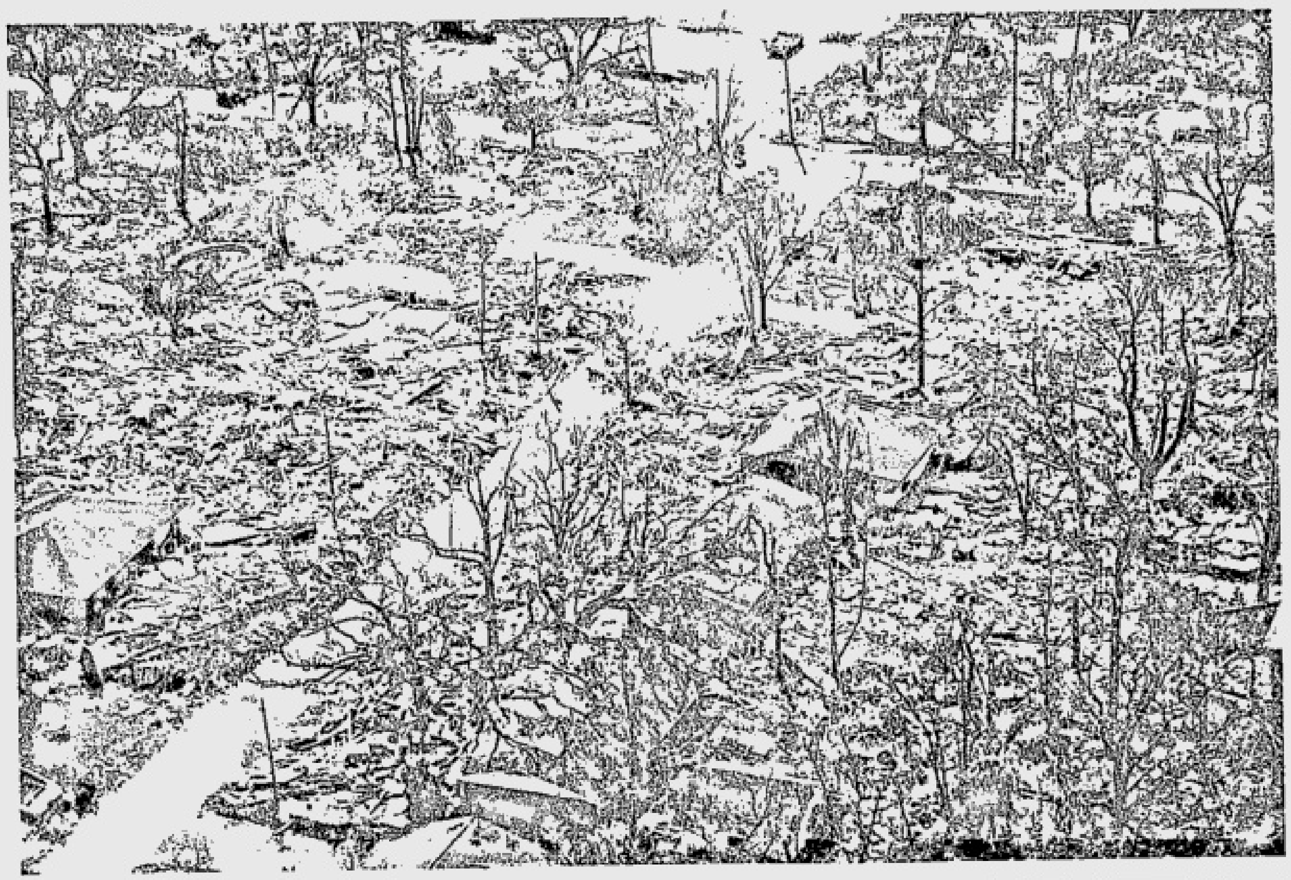
Experts: Storms worse than Katrina may hit US



THE DESTRUCTION left by Hurricane Katrina in Gulport, Miss. as seen Sept. 9. AP

MIAMI—HURRICANE KATRINA MAY BE one of the worst natural disasters on US territory, but the Atlantic hurricane season is far from over and the worst may be to come, experts said.

"The tropics are only going to get busier as we enter the peak of the season," said David Johnson, director of the US National Weather Service.

If the 2004 season was exceptional, with four hurricanes hitting Florida, experts said this storm season could turn out to be even worse.

"We expect that by the time the 2005 hurricane season is over, we will witness seasonal tropical cyclone activity at near-record levels," said William Gray, Colorado State University professor of atmospheric science. Cyclones and hurricanes are synonymous.

"We are continuing the bad news by predicting above-average activity for September and October," Gray said.

Hurricane season has almost two months to go, but, Gray said, we have had more than a full season's worth of activity.

"We have already experienced 110 percent of the average full-season net tropical cyclone activity," he said.

The season got off to a running start, with two hurricanes in June. Those June hurricanes were also more intense than in any previous year. Dennis and Emily reached category four, on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale.

Ophelia, brewing in the Atlantic off the eastern coast of Florida, is threatening northern Florida and the Carolinas, according to the National Hurricane Center on Friday.

Kerry Emanuel, an expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has tracked hurricanes over five decades and found that they are getting stronger and lasting longer.

He chalks up the difference to global climate change. Warm waters fuel hurricanes, and as oceans get warmer, storms will become stronger, he said, although he could not say if their frequency will increase.

Not so, said Anthony Lupo, professor of atmospheric science at the University of Missouri, because hurricanes form in the tropics.

"In the tropics the warming is going to be very small," he said.

"There is no reason at this time to suspect a huge increase in hurricanes numbers or strength, and that is because most of the warming is going to occur in polar regions as opposed to tropical regions," he said. *AFP*

US knew of dire risks of Katrina, says report

WASHINGTON—ONE MILLION EVACUEES, and up to 350,000 left homeless: that would be the results of a hurricane hitting New Orleans, according to a year-old document from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency made public on Friday.

The government document appears to contradict claims by top US officials that nobody had anticipated the outcome of a powerful hurricane hitting Louisiana as Hurricane Katrina did last week.

The 2004 FEMA document was made public by opposition Democrats in the US House of Representatives.

It explains that a hurricane of between category three and five in strength (on the Saffir-Simspon scale) hitting the southern state of Louisiana would create "a catastrophe with which the state would not be able to cope without massive help from neighboring states and the federal government."

State and federal emergency management officials "believe that the gravity of the situation calls for an extraordinary level of advance planning to improve government readiness to respond effectively to such an event."

In the event of a hurricane hit "over one million people would evacuate from New Orleans. Evacuees would crowd shelters throughout Louisiana and adjacent states."

The hurricane water surge "would block highways and trap 300,000 to 350,000 persons in flooded areas. Storm surge combined with heavy rain could leave much of New Orleans under 14 to 17 feet of water. More than 200 square miles of urban areas would be flooded." *AFP*

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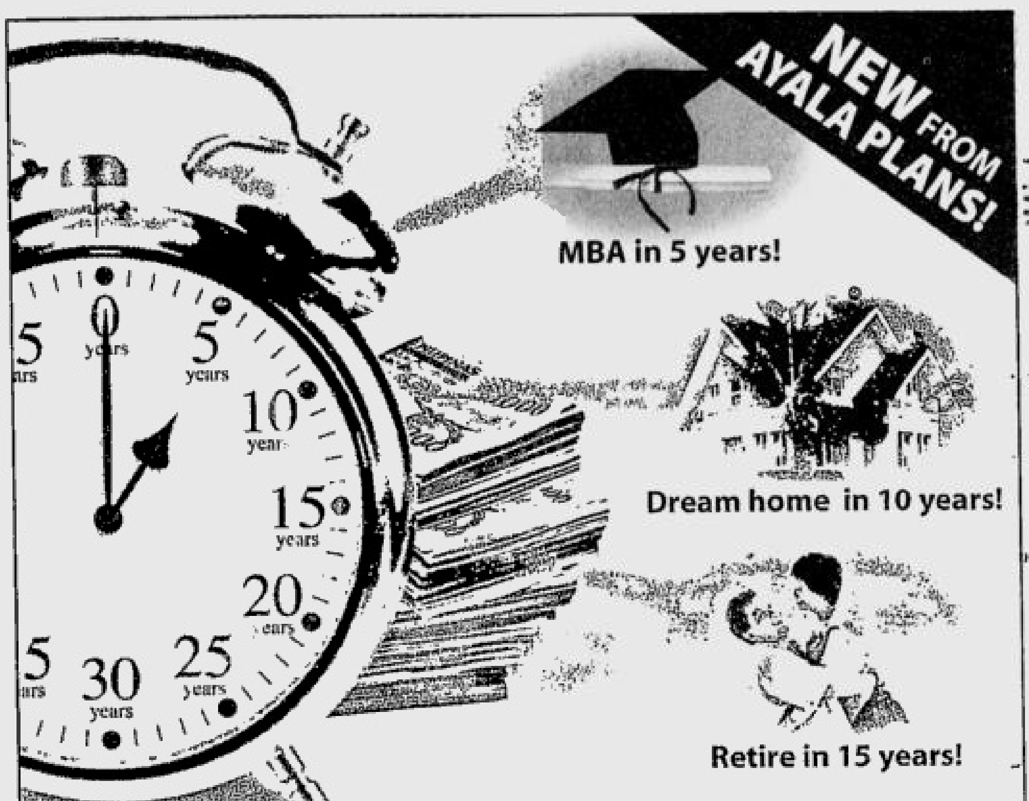

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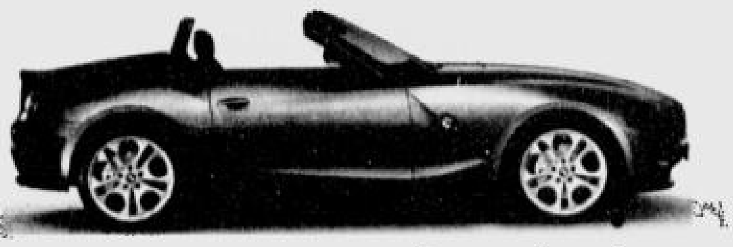

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Mubarak wins fifth 6-yr-term

CAIRO—PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK won a fifth six-year term in Egypt's first contested presidential election, as expected, with 88.6 percent of the vote but turnout was very low at 23 percent.

Wednesday's race, in which Mubarak faced nine mostly little known rivals, was the first time Egyptians were able to choose between more than one presidential candidate.

The election enlivened political debate and led to scathing public criticism of Mubarak, but many Egyptians said they would not bother voting because the outcome was assured and they feared rigging by the government.

Mubarak's victory, announced by Presidential Election Commission Chair Mamdouh Marei, was widely forecast but the official turnout figure came as a surprise.

It was roughly in line, however, with assessments by independent monitors, who said the government had inflated the figures in past votes to lend them credibility.

"The commission decided unanimously that the candidate of the National Democratic Party (NDP), Hosni Mubarak, is the president of Egypt for the coming term, which starts from the day after the end of his current term as president," Marei said.

Mubarak's main rival, Ayman Nour of the liberal Ghad (Tomorrow) Party, won 7.6 percent of the vote and Wafd Party candidate Noman Gomaa was third with 2.9 percent. The percentages were based on valid votes counted.

Rights groups said there were widespread abuses on election day but not enough to invalidate the result.

Under the old system, parliament chose Mubarak as the sole presidential candidate and people voted in a yes-no referendum.

He decided to change the system this year after the United States and domestic groups pressed for political change.

Mubarak, 77, has ruled Egypt since the 1981 assassination of Anwar Sadat. No president since 1952, when the military overthrew the monarchy, has left office via the ballot box.

Turnout was well below figures announced in previous votes.

When Mubarak won his fourth six-year term by referendum in 1999, officials said 79 percent of registered voters took part.

Independent groups had estimated turnout at no more than 25 percent and some put it below 20 percent.

Asked if the turnout figure indicated more accurate official counting, Mubarak campaign spokesperson Mohamed Kamal said:

"This is a step forward … This will continue in the future with (November) parliamentary elections and other elections."

On Nour's second place in the presidential vote, Kamal said:

"One explanation is that he got some of the protest vote.

"Another explanation is I think the Muslim Brotherhood, many members, decided to vote for him."

The Brotherhood, Egypt's largest opposition group, could not field a candidate because the government has never allowed it to form a political party. Nour had said he would let the group form a party but the Brotherhood did not endorse any candidate.

The Ghad party disputed the 23 percent turnout figure, saying it was inflated to please the United States, which gives Egypt more than $1 billion in aid each year.

"I don't believe the turnout figure. They needed to get the congratulations from the White House," said Hisham Kassim, a senior Nour aide, said. He said Ghad would announce their figures but this did not mean they could have won. *Reuters*

MUBARAK AFP

Bush rating dips below 40 percent

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush's job approval has dipped below 40 percent for the first time in the AP-Ipsos poll, reflecting widespread doubts about his handling of gasoline prices and the response to Hurricane Katrina.

Nearly four years after Bush's job approval soared into the 80s after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Bush was at 39 percent job approval in an AP-Ipsos poll taken this week. That's the lowest since the poll was started in December 2003.

The public's view of the nation's direction has grown increasingly negative as well, with nearly two-thirds now saying the country is heading down the wrong track.

"As a nation, we are pretty well stretched," said Barry Allen, a political independent from Reed City, Michigan. "I approve of some of the things the president has done, and disapprove of others. Overall, I disapprove."

Allen said he liked some of Bush's economic steps during his first term, but has been dissatisfied with the president's economic moves in his second term, his Iraq policy and his handling of gasoline prices.

Allen worries Hurricane Katrina has taken the wind out of an economy that was moving in the right direction.

With gasoline racing past $3 a gallon, Bush's standing on dealing with those prices may be one of his biggest problems—seven in 10 said they disapprove.

And just over half in the poll, 52 percent, said they disapprove of the president's handling of the hurricane.

For Bill Kane of Kingsland, Georgia, the government's slow response to the hurricane "was terrifying to see in our own country. It made you mad, because it made you think, 'where's our money going?'" *AP*

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Ukraine's sacked PM breaks with Yushchenko, ending dream team

KIEV—THE DREAM TEAM SWEPT to power by Ukraine's peaceful revolution less than a year ago fell apart Friday, threatening the success of the nation's pro-Western course, as sacked premier Yulia Tymoshenko said she was breaking with President Viktor Yushchenko.

"Today we are definitely two different teams and these two teams will go their separate ways," the charismatic Tymoshenko, who roused crowds during the momentous "orange revolution," said during a television talk show.

The move is a major blow to Yushchenko ahead of a key legislative election next year that will redraw Ukraine's political landscape.

Constitutional changes that come into effect on Jan. 1 transfer many presidential powers to parliament and Yushchenko and his allies will need to score a decisive victory during the March 2006 election in order to continue their pro-Western policies.

In her live primetime statement, Tymoshenko said several of Yushchenko's close aides were guilty of corruption and said they had schemed against her ever since she was appointed prime minister in early February.

Yushchenko sacked his seven-month-old cabinet on Thursday in a bid to quash a deepening corruption scandal sparked by a simmering battle for power between Tymoshenko and the powerful former chief of the National Security Council, Petro Poroshenko.

The Ukrainian president named a trusted ally, Yury Yekhanurov, as acting premier and the 57-year-old liberal economist spent most of Friday huddling with political party leaders and outgoing ministers in talks on forming a new government.

Yushchenko said the new government would continue with the reform policies that he set out at his inauguration in January.

"We will not stop development in any of these directions," his press service quoted him as saying during a meeting with regional leaders.

Yushchenko also spoke with European Commission Chief Jose Manuel Barroso to assure him that he would continue a pro-Western course, said a statement from his press service.

Barroso in turn said the European Union's executive wing "is following the evolution of the situation closely and looks forward to the appointment of a new government," hoping that "recent developments will not impede the reform process," said a commission statement.

Yekhanurov said Friday that parliament would likely vote on his candidacy as premier after Sept. 19.

The appointment of Yekhanurov, a long-time Yushchenko ally with extensive experience in the executive branch who is not known for harboring political ambitions, was welcomed across Ukraine's political spectrum and by investors.

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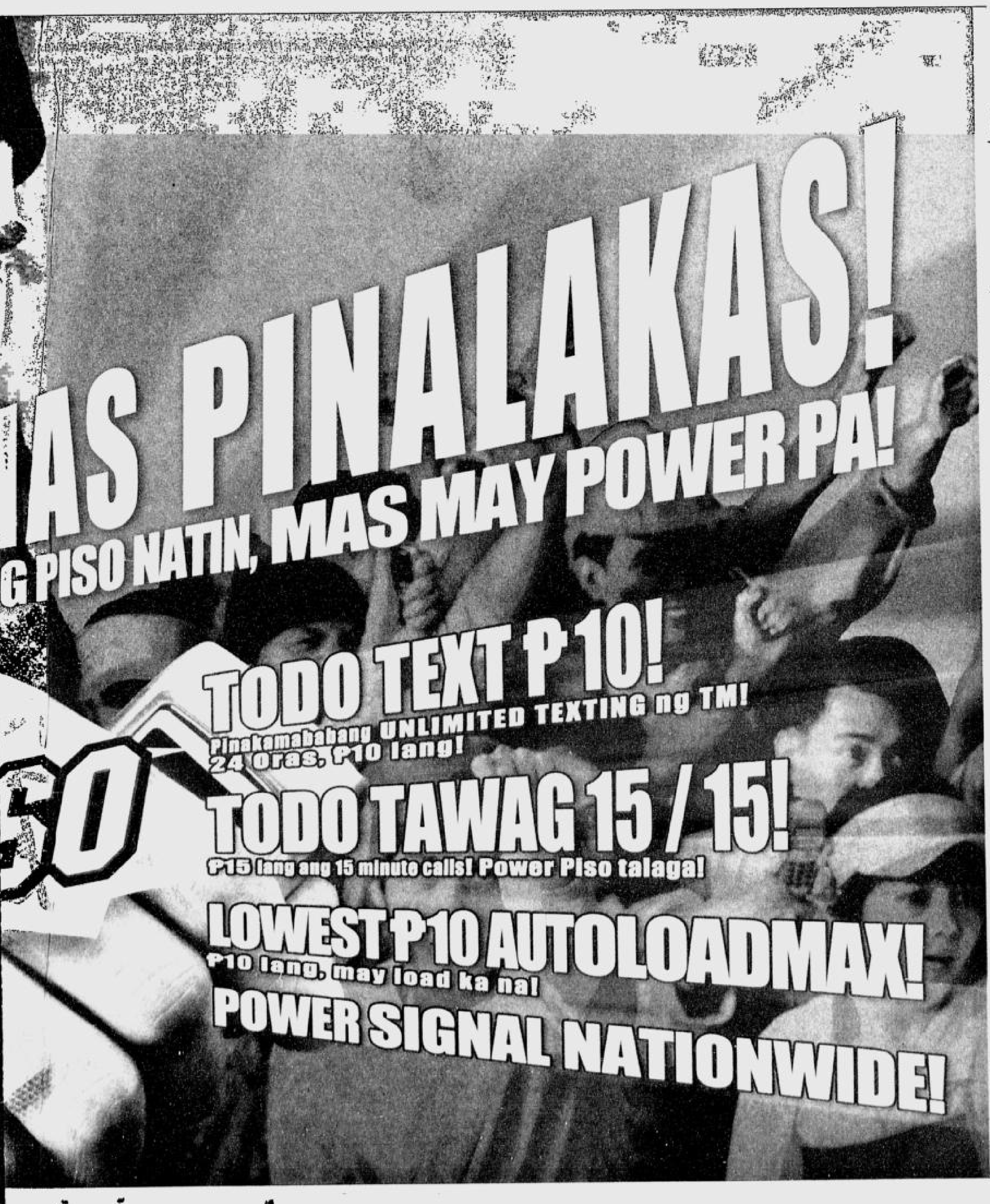
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OPINION

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Hostage to politics?

EDITORIAL

DURING LAST MONDAY'S PRIVILEGE HOUR AT the Batasan, an administration congressman who voted to reject the justice committee's impeachment report briskly summarized the challenge facing Congress. "The task before the plenary now," said Makati City Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., is "a political question: Can the President still govern?"

To be sure, not many share Locsin's pragmatic view of the crisis surrounding the President. Many in the political opposition understand it in moral terms; in Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano's phrase, it is all about "morality rule," rather than majority rule. And by and large, anti-impeachment congressmen see the crisis in legal terms, as ultimately an appeal to due process.

(We write in the present tense because, contrary to what the administration leadership may have wanted, last Tuesday's vote upholding the dismissal of all three impeachment complaints did not put paid to the President's crisis of legitimacy.)

But Locsin does have a point. He has drawn our attention to what may well be the real bottom line: the President's capacity to govern. Three months ago, the question was whether the distractions from the various scandals that have descended on the administration like a biblical plague were preventing the President from discharging her duties according to the nation's best interests. The breakaway of the Hyatt 10 group of Cabinet-level officials on July 8 was premised on exactly the same concern: that the President was already on damn-the-torpedoes, survive-at-all-costs mode.

Today, the question has only deepened; we wonder whether the "costs" of the favorable impeachment vote in last Tuesday's plenary session may have been too prohibitive. In other words: Has the President been fatally compromised? Is she now a hostage to all the politicians she is presumed to have cut a deal with or promised a favor to, in order to survive?

We ask these questions, knowing full well that politics is in truth the art of the possible. It is eminently a collaborative art, based on give and take. If the entire political class were to base its understanding of the political process solely on the black-and-white distinctions drawn recently and repeatedly by the political opposition, no single bridge would be built, no textbook printed, no deep-water wells dug.

There is a scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours quality to politics—in the halls of Congress, in the corridors of the Palace, in the stairwells of agency or city hall—that the framers of the Constitution not only accepted but actually envisioned. In the political branches of government, this is how much of the work gets done: through the political equivalent of Adam Smith's invisible hand.

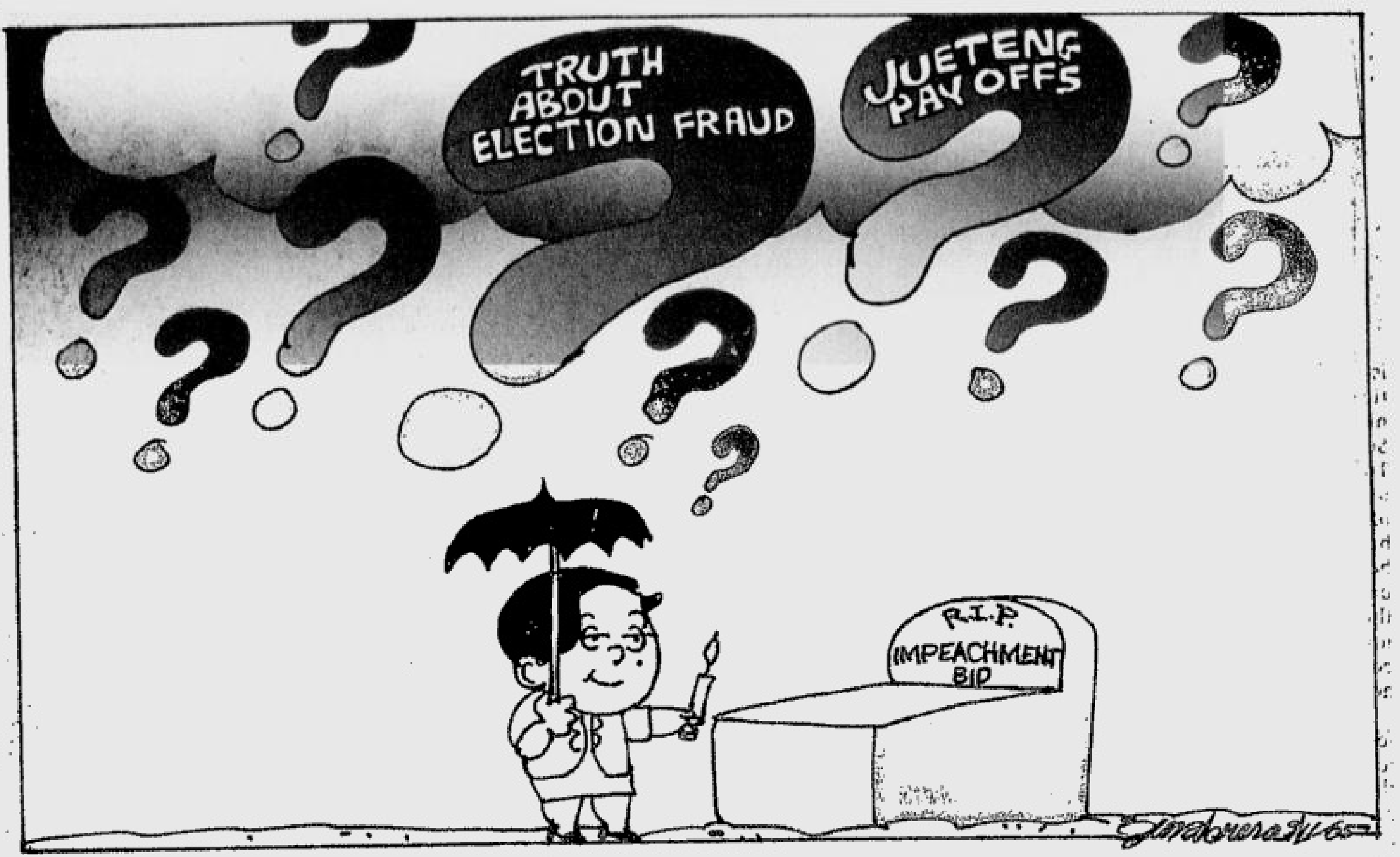
A congressman signs off on a bill creating a new airport, in exchange for supporting another bill renaming a street. A provincial governor invites a Cabinet secretary to grace a goodwill visit to a Filipino community abroad, in exchange for expanding his department's presence in the governor's province. And so on, ad infinitum.

The idea is that, in the end, biases and special interests will cancel each other out, and the give and take of politics ends up serving the national interest.

Locsin's "political question," however, leads us to reconsider whether, in the President's all-out bid to survive the crisis, there has been much more give than take. Did she, in fact, incur political costs she cannot possibly hope to pay?

The case of a close Estrada ally, Rep. Pedro Pancho of Bulacan, is instructive. In pushing for a pet project, involving housing for many informal settlers, Pancho earlier this year received an unexpected gift—Malacañang agreed to reduce the selling price of each unit by 25 percent, from P100,000 to P75,000. (The project hasn't started, because Pancho's constituents want the price brought down to P50,000.) All told, the Palace discount amounted to over P300 million. Out of a sense of gratitude, he said, for a political favor from a political adversary, Pancho declined to cast a No vote last Tuesday.

Multiply Pancho's case by the dozens of lawmakers who now believe the President owes them a similar debt of gratitude, and the political bill may outpace even the President's own credit line.



'Tuloy ang ligaya!'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PESSIMIST IN ME PREDICTED THAT THE impeachment movement against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would get nowhere like the attempts to remove Elpidio Quirino and later Diosdado Macapagal, her father, as President of the Philippines. The charges against her looked explosive enough, with the Garci tapes and the exposé of her and her family's involvement in the *jueteng* scandal. But they started with a bang and have ended with a whimper.

The GMA counter-offensive was like a dreadnought that confused and practically demolished the campaign against her. The tactics of her satraps, presumably acting under her secret commands, were too underhanded, and probably exceedingly expensive, to confuse the befuddled opposition. The resistance of Messrs. Quirino and Macapagal during their own ordeals look puny now compared to her determined efforts to remain in office at all costs.

The Garci tapes could have easily done her in if Virgilio Garcillano had appeared at the investigation being conducted by five committees of the House of Representatives. Ms Arroyo had confessed she was the person on the tapes talking to Garci but described her conduct as only "a lapse in judgment." Garcillano could have confirmed her innocence but he never surfaced. The suspicion grew that he was ordered to lie low instead lest his testimony become too damaging to the President on cross-examination.

It was unlikely for GMA, with all her available resources, to be unable to locate Garcillano wherever he was hiding and produce him before the nation so he could testify in her favor. She did finally order his immediate search but it was too late because he had already flown the coop in a Learjet owned by a friend of her husband. Government officials regulating the entry and departure of persons in the country denied any foreknowledge of the fugitive's flight. The President herself had no comment on the "escape," not even to berate her subordinates for sleeping on the job.

The Senate probe of the jueteng scandal, where the President's family is directly accused of receiving millions of pesos in secret payola, is also moribund and all it awaits now is its coup de grace. Archbishop Oscar Cruz's witnesses have been discredited or have angrily sworn that their previous accusations against the Arroyos, also under oath, were forced from them by the opposition. The policy of the Supreme Court is to reject suspicious retractions of sworn declarations as usually induced by monetary persuasions. But the Senate seems to be more impressed by the crocodile tears of the recanters and is apparently bent on closing its investigation.

The impeachment proceedings have also ended in the rout of its proponents.

Full-page paid advertisements extolling GMA and denouncing the impeachment movement as distracting the nation from its serious problems have appeared in the major dailies with exasperating frequency. Such announcements supposedly come from citizens concerned only with the promotion of the country's progress under her enlightened leadership. Generally believed to be chargeable to Malacañang or parties expecting favors from it, they are certainly appreciated at least by the newspapers that print them for their substantial rates. But for all their subservient rhetoric, they are usually unread by the unimpressed public.

Last week, as expected, the Committee on Justice of the House of Representatives dismissed the Lozano impeachment complaint on the ground that although sufficient in form, it was not so in substance. It refused to consider the second and third impeachment complaints on the ground that they were barred by the first complaint under the rule that "no impeachment proceeding shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year." There were only four dissenting votes against the Arroyo majority of 50.

The pro-impeachment representatives prepared to reverse the Committee on Justice in the plenary deliberation of its decision, but they did not get the needed vote of one-third of the House of Representatives, the number required to impeach. Their plan fizzled out as they desperately held their ground against the mighty Arroyo juggernaut that was waiting to overwhelm them. The speed of the operation was itself an overkill.

The talk was rife that the members of the Lower House received millions of pesos for supporting the President, but this was dismissed as a vile rumor. There were also reports of money in the billions flowing from Malacañang but these were denied as pure imagination and sour grapes of the opposition. At any rate, the blitzkrieg of the administration was too overpowering to resist and the valiant minority was vanquished although with its ideals intact.

The 51 pro-impeachers were outvoted but delivered splendid speeches refusing to accept defeat. Speaker Jose de Venecia called for "the healing of the nation's wounds" and reiterated his commercial for the parliamentary system, where he expects to be prime minister. Still secure in Malacañang, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo exulted in her "glorious" victory, thanked her loyal defenders, and called for national reconciliation. *Tuloy ang ligaya!*

'I am sorry'?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE IS A JOKE I HEARD ABOUT A PENITENT who confessed that he had been receiving and forwarding all sorts of green jokes and pornographic pictures via his cell phone. The priest gave him the absolution, but before leaving the confessional, the priest told him: "By the way, here is my cell phone number. Could you forward your sins to me?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 18, 21-35) Jesus reminds us that whoever has been forgiven must pass on and forward forgiveness to others as well. He or she who has been forgiven much must also forgive and love much. If he or she does not do so, it is because he or she was not really sorry—a case of repentance coming just from the mouth, but not from the heart.

* * *

"I am sorry" is a beautiful word, if it comes from the heart. It should lead to gratitude, which in turn should lead to forgiveness of others, and to true repentance that bears fruit in good works. "I am sorry" should not be used just for tactical or theatrical purposes. Tactics will eventually fail, and theatrics will eventually be uncovered. In the long run, saying "I am sorry" and really meaning it and living it will be the better choice than just mouthing it.

* * *

Someone once said that true repentance has two eyes: A weeping eye for the sins of the past, and a watchful eye for good works in the future. Too bad that some people never get to have these two eyes because they never saw beyond the "I."

* * *

I feel sorry that the spirit of "I am sorry" has not really sunk deep into our hearts as a nation. Our sense of right and wrong has become so numb and dumb. "I am sorry" has become a convenient white flag we raise whenever we are caught or just to get us out of trouble. Do you know what I feel so sorry about most? It is the thought that we are passing on and forwarding the message to the next generation that it is all right to cheat, lie and steal, as long as you don't get caught, you don't get sentenced, you don't get impeached; and that you can do all these if you have the money and the numbers. May it never be said that our generation sailed smoothly because we sailed too closely to comfortable shores and never taught our children to sail into the deep.

* * *

Reminds me of a story about a teacher who chanced upon a group of little boys huddled around a puppy. When asked what they were doing, one of them said that they were having a contest of telling the biggest lie, and the winner gets to keep the dog. "Boys, you know lying is bad. You should be ashamed of yourself. Me? I have never told a lie all my life," the teacher said. After some moments of quiet, one boy finally spoke up and said: "Well, she wins. I guess she keeps the dog." In all our present-day winnings, what do we leave behind to the next generation for reaping? What seeds are we sowing? What examples are we giving?

* * *

I saw him again this morning as I passed by Balete Drive. There he was, this deranged man going over the garbage and putting all sorts of trash into the sack that he drags with him wherever he goes. I was reminded again by the Lord that many of us carry a lot of trash as we travel on in life. Many of us cannot let go of our hurts, our pride, our selfishness and unforgiveness, and all the trash; that's why we are weighed down by so much burdens and we live miserable lives. When we come before the Lord at the end of our lives and He examines our bags, may He find not trash, but lots of forgiveness and love.

* * *

Last Sept. 8, I ended the day by sending a text message to many people reminding them that they are loved by Mama Mary very much. This was my way of expressing my love and gratitude to Mama Mary on her birthday. It took a lot of time and money from me, but the response from the people was so touching and overwhelming. Many times I had to stop to wipe a tear and say a prayer. It's amazing how a simple message of love could evoke so much emotion, hope and love. Yes, people are thirsting for hope and love. Let us not give them rhetoric and trash.

* * *

I am praying that by Christmastime, there will already be real healing, unity and progress in our land. With all the beatings we have been taking from our so-called leaders and politicians, it is amazing that we are still standing, still hoping, still smiling. We are a forgiving people. May we have more giving leaders.

* * *

Today is the "Day of Healing with Jesus Through Mary" at the Ultra. Mass with Julia Kim will be at 2 p.m. There will also be a Mass with her at the Sacred Heart Parish in Cebu City tomorrow at 7 p.m.

* * *

Inviting you all for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Egypt on Oct. 12 to 22. Let us remember that Jesus once walked the earth. Let us follow his footsteps. Let us listen to His words and live his precepts. For inquiries, please call 5238581 to 88.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to mean what I say when I say "I am sorry." Amen.

Cracks in the AFP façade

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS always endeavored to maintain a semblance of unity and neutrality within its ranks in the face of attempts to draw it into the political controversies facing the nation. Perhaps, this is because it has come to realize the increasingly significant role played by the military establishment in the political life of our country. While the Constitution talks vaguely of "the armed forces being the protector of the people and the State," the reality today is that the armed forces determines if the government stays or falls.

With the impeachment process effectively killed in the House of Representatives, opposition groups have vowed to go on with protest actions against the President in a continuing search for what happened in the 2004 elections. Many call it a search for truth.

The latest movement against the President is the Bukluran para sa Katotohanan (Coalition for the Truth), which brought together more than 30 anti-Arroyo organizations last Sept. 2 at the La Salle Green Hills cafeteria. The one thing which struck me was the singing of the nationalist song, "Bayan Ko" at the end of the prayer meeting. Its haunting strains brought back memories of 1985-86, the period before the fall of the dictator. Administration partisans may scoff at the numbers attending the rallies, demonstrations and prayer meetings against GMA, but I have a feeling they will continue to haunt the government until they achieve their objectives.

Where does the military come in? Former defense secretary and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Renato De Villa, who is a member of the coalition, put things down clearly. He said that no amount of rallies or demonstrations or protest marches could bring down Ms Arroyo without support from the military sector. He also admitted that the life and death of their cause—the search for truth—will be decided by the military.

According to Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado, AFP spokesman and chief of the Civil Relations Service (CRS-AFP), the armed forces remains neutral and continues to back the Arroyo administration. (That sounds like a contradiction.) He says the chain of command is intact and functioning.

Let us examine some recent developments in the AFP.

* * *

During the weekend prior to the impeachment vote in Congress, three battalions of the AFP were kept on alert in Metro Manila. Who would they have been used against? The same report also mentioned that "military units said to hold high anti-government sentiments have been split into smaller groups and their heavy armaments and transport vehicles recalled."

* * *

Last week, Capt. Marlon Mendoza was forcibly evicted from his quarters in Camp Aguinaldo. Just to refresh our memories, Mendoza is the junior officer recruited by the administration to serve as security officer for Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. Mendoza recently testified in the Senate that alleged gambling lord Bong Pineda had contributed P300 million to GMA's campaign kitty. He also provided some insights into the activities of Commissioner Garcillano during the election period.

Brig. Gen. Juvenal Narcise, the chairman of the Housing Board and camp commander of Aguinaldo, has charged Mendoza with violations of an AFP circular regarding housing. He may be legally correct, but in the eyes of the public, Mendoza is being punished for embarrassing the administration with his Senate testimony. Moral of the story: You can't fight city hall; it may cost you your quarters.

* * *

Now comes the latest and, perhaps, the most embarrassing snafu in the AFP command arrangements. Last Friday, Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division, was supposed to take over from Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza as Southcom chief. The Southern Command is the largest and most important of the AFP's unified commands. It is sometimes a stepping stone to the position of AFP chief of staff.

Bagasin was the choice of the Board of Generals (BOG) for the post. There may have been other recommendees but he was the first choice, and for a while, it looked like he was it. If reports are accurate, his parents had flown in from the United States for the change of command ceremonies. He would also be turning 55 next week. It would have been a grand reunion for the family; unfortunately, at the last minute, Ms Arroyo flip-flopped on his appointment.

Apparently, intense lobbying by another officer threw a monkey wrench into the whole business, denying Bagasin the promotion. Reports say that Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and a PMA classmate of Bagasin, threatened to come out with revelations that would embarrass the Armed Forces. (Both belong to the class of 1973.) Whatever those revelations may be, they must have been strong enough to force the President to change her mind. At any rate, instead of Bagasin or Habacon, GMA designated the deputy chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan as officer-in-charge of Southcom, until his retirement on Jan. 11, 2006, exactly four months from today. Another revolving door situation coming up for the Armed Forces. By Jan. 11 next year, Bagasin and Habacon will both be ineligible for promotion since they will have less than a year of service left.

* * *

The good news of the week: The Philippines has offered 25 aid workers to assist hurricane Katrina survivors in New Orleans. The bad news: There have been 25 million applicants for the 25 slots.

Search for a deadbeat dad

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN MARCH 1993, Gregory Toop, an Australian lawyer who practices in Papua New Guinea, wrote to Mery Ranches, whom Toop addressed as Malou, his Filipino common-law wife.

Explaining why he could not as yet bring Malou and their child Thomasina Patricia to Papua New Guinea, Toop said it had primarily to do with "preparing" his legal wife and their children for their arrival. "Although I desperately want you to be here by my side, I am realistic enough to know that this dream needs to be properly planned and the groundwork laid before it can become a reality. Do not be too disappointed, as we plan to spend the rest of our lives together, what difference is a few more months going to make?"

Two years later, to his credit, Toop made good his word, bringing Malou and Thomasina to PNG where, Malou says, she met Toop's wife Elizabeth and their daughters. After a month's stay in PNG, however, Toop brought Malou and Thomasina back to the Philippines. It would be the last time Malou would ever see the father of her child.

In the 10 years since Toop turned his back on her and their daughter, Malou has had to fend for herself, earning a living while struggling to get Toop to fulfill his responsibilities. After working as a domestic in Singapore and Taiwan, Malou has since gotten married and had another child. She now lives in a barrio in Alaminos, Pangasinan, where her husband works as a farm laborer. Her daughter is now 13, and it is for her future, primarily her education, that Malou has persisted in chasing down the elusive Toop.

* * *

BEFORE SHE personally met Toop in 1991, Malou and the lawyer had been "pen-pals." He was introduced to her by mutual friends who were also lawyers. When on their first meeting Toop invited her to join him on vacation in Puerto Galera, Malou readily agreed. When Toop later asked her if she would move in with him, she said yes again, explaining that "I was then so in love with him already."

"Greg" Toop was away a lot, explaining that his work as a lawyer and counsel to the Office of the Ombudsman of PNG required a lot of travel. But he kept in touch with Malou and visited the country frequently. When Malou gave birth to Thomasina in 1992, Greg was by her side and he readily signed the reverse of the child's birth certificate, admitting paternity of Thomasina.

"I had no reason to doubt Greg," recounts Malou in Filipino. "He introduced me to his friends, some of whom he said were high-ranking officials of Papua New Guinea. And he even brought me and Thomasina along on some of his foreign trips." And then in 1995, there was the trip to PNG to meet his family.

* * *

IN THE YEARS they were together, Malou says, Toop provided well for them, renting a house in a subdivision and sending money regularly. In fact, so generous was Toop that Malou says she was even able to help other members of her family, particularly her cousins whose parents had helped raise her.

But Malou now suspects these cousins of hers of sowing intrigue between her and Toop, citing an instance when she asked a cousin's help to get in touch with Toop by phone, only to find that female cousin reading her own bank account details to Toop and closing the door when she saw Malou approaching. "They must have made up stories about me and told him I was having an affair," she says, near tears. Her suspicions have been bolstered, she adds, by the vastly improved circumstances of her cousins. "They've bought a car and now live in a nice house."

Of course, regardless of the reasons for his abandonment of Malou and Thomasina, or even if Malou was indeed unfaithful to him, Toop still has a responsibility toward his own child. "I'm not asking anything for myself," declares Malou. "I only want to ensure that Thomasina gets a good education and a better future."

The search for Toop has so far been unrewarding, though. Malou has approached the Embassy of Papua New Guinea for help in locating Toop several times but she has been rebuffed in her efforts. In August 2004, in response to a letter she wrote to the PNG Embassy, Ambassador Damien Gamiandu wrote to assure her that she would be hearing from the embassy within a month where she would "be advised to the scheduled date of our meeting in the first week of October 2004." To this day, a year after receipt of that letter, she has not heard anything from the embassy.

* * *

EVEN Malou's appeals to local authorities seem to be stonewalled.

She has approached the Department of Foreign Affairs, but despite repeated visits, she has not been rewarded with any response. Malou has even approached Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, who as a former Cabinet member would seem to have connections to Philippine officialdom, but despite his promises to help her, nothing has happened so far.

"Looking at Thomasina, you wouldn't think she is the daughter of a supposedly high-ranking official of Papua New Guinea," says Malou's lawyer Marivic Melendez, who, together with another lawyer, has volunteered her services. "She deserves better than this and it's her father's responsibility to look after her."

Malou provided in the packet of documents she brought with her copies of photos of Toop with Thomasina and with her. The lawyer appears genuinely happy, and seems to have been quite fond of the little girl. At this point, while I have yet to hear Toop's side of the story, I'd like to believe that he didn't really mean to be a deadbeat dad, and the reason he has seemingly abandoned his child is that he has been deceived about her circumstances. If he should ever get to read this, perhaps, he should know that it's not yet too late to re-enter his daughter's life and set it in another, better direction.

Confusion and vision

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

AT A STUDENT LEADERS' CONFERENCE IN THE University of the Philippines the other day, Bam Aquino of the National Youth Commission ran a quick survey with the audience. To every question, he requested the participants to stand up to register their response. The last question was: "How many of you are confused about the present political situation in the country?" About 80 percent of the students stood up without hesitation. I was shocked.

During the open forum, I began to understand what the students' confusion might be about. It is not just about one thing; it is about many things. They are not sure who is telling the truth, or what the truth is, or how important it is. They are not sure who is right and who is wrong, or what morality means in politics. They do not know whom to trust among the country's leaders. They do not know what feelings they should have, and how they should act.

I realized this is not mere indifference. It is more like a breakdown of moral sensibility resulting in a paralysis of will. From day one after the Garci tapes surfaced, Malacañang's operatives have used every means to kill the issue of electoral fraud and to sow the seeds of doubt in the public mind. On June 6, they announced the existence of an alleged opposition plot to destabilize the government using "altered" tapes showing President Macapagal-Arroyo in conversation with Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. The "original," they claimed, only contains innocent conversations between Ms Arroyo and one of her political leaders. On June 27, Ms Arroyo admitted talking to an unnamed Comelec official, but she said her purpose was not to cheat, but only to protect her votes. She apologized for "a lapse in judgment," but refused to address the issue any further.

A week later, she went on radio to say that Philippine politics had become so rotten no one who participates in it can keep his hands clean. She dared her detractors to "cast the first stone." She said that exit poll results showed she may in fact have been the one cheated of some votes. In her State of the Nation Address on July 25, she wove her speech around the same theme—a decadent political system is hampering the country's economic growth. On this premise, she called for a change in the country's form of government.

When finally she made herself available to the media, she challenged her critics to file an impeachment complaint against her instead of asking her to resign, so she could answer the charges in the appropriate forum. She breezily invoked her "rights as an accused person" to justify her refusal to talk about the Garci tapes.

The opposition accepted her dare and filed an impeachment complaint. But instead of allowing the process to unfold, Ms Arroyo's supporters in Congress did everything to prevent the complaint from prospering beyond the initial stage. The complaint was finally interred in a tomb of technicalities. Her loyal legislators recited a mantra that equated the law with procedural literalism and stripped it of any normative meaning. The vote in the plenary affirming the dismissal of the complaint was hailed as the triumph of democracy, as if "democracy" was synonymous with "majority vote," and had nothing to do with reasoned argument and debate.

It is necessary to find our way through this confusion if we are to break the current political stalemate. Since the start of this controversy, I have traded notes with my venerable friend, the former Ambassador to Germany, Bienvenido Tan Jr. In many ways, Benny resonates the same doubts that the UP students expressed at the forum.

Benny asks: "How are we to interpret the recent voting at the House? Does it mean we have 51 patriots, 158 traitors, and 8 who cannot make up their minds? To my mind they are all for themselves and what power can bring them. What have they given up voluntarily for the country or 'our people? If cheating at the elections is the issue, who can cast the first stone? Does anyone really care about the 'true will of the people'? If it is true that the majority congressmen were bought or convinced by other means, what moral standards is the opposition offering the country to replace those of Gloria's?"

First, I believe there is nothing wrong with politicians having personal motives. But for these to have social validity, such interests have to be fused with the wider interests of the community. That is how leaders are found: they personify the aspirations of an entire nation or community. Second, cheating in elections must bother all of us who value democracy. Democracy is meaningless if we do nothing to make elections trustworthy. That is why it matters very much that we know whether Ms Arroyo and Commissioner Garcillano manipulated the 2004 elections. Third, it may indeed be true that many of our present politicians are morally bankrupt. But that should only prompt us to be selective of our future leaders, rather than forgiving of the corrupt ones we have.

Clearly, it is not just confusion we are battling here. We are also up against cynicism, fear, despair, and the pull of blind affinities. We might begin to overcome these if we could visualize the kind of nation we want to leave to our children. In my heart of hearts, I know that such a nation has to be one that is self-reliant and capable of governing itself, is run by leaders who inspire trust in their people, who in turn have a reason to be proud of their identity and heritage and fully embrace their responsibilities as citizens. If such a vision has any value at all, it should show us the way past Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Oil is still too cheap

"The absence of alternatives clears the mind marvelously."
—Henry Kissinger

COMMENTARY

Antonio A. Oposa Jr.

SOMEONE ONCE OBSERVED THAT AS A KIND OF ANIMAL, human beings are quite unique and strange. Among all of Earth's life forms, humans have been observed as the only animals that dirty the very air they breathe. And yet they call themselves "wise," as in Homo sapiens—"sapiens" being a word adopted from the Latin language, meaning "wise."

Why, then, must it take them so long to understand that the:

(a) supply of fossil fuels like oil and coal is limited;

(b) continued burning of that fuel is not good for our individual and collective lungs.

Air pollution and the resulting warming of the Earth's atmosphere were 20th century phenomena. In the 19th century, air pollution was generally local. (The lungs of city dwellers suffered the most from the soot and smoke of motor vehicles.) But in the 20th century, the pyro-maniacal habits of humans—and the resulting release of carbon dioxide into the air—changed the Earth's climate.

Price is the best conservationist

That the supply of oil is limited is beginning to become quite clear—finally. Because it is limited, it is highly vulnerable to price changes resulting from the play of the forces of supply and demand. The best scientific estimates, however, indicate that the supply of oil will not last more than 30-40 years. How long must it take for the allegedly wise humans to understand this?

Considering all the implications and impact of the continued burning of limited fossil fuels, the price of oil is too cheap. It should not be about $65 per barrel (August 2005). It should be at least $650 per barrel. Then, and only then, will people begin to seriously think of less expensive—and less dirty—alternative modes of locomotion.

Yes, price is the best conservationist.

Few facts

Take the case of the Philippines. It consumes 21 million liters of imported oil per day to feed the engines of the transport sector alone. This oil bill costs the Philippine economy $8 million (or P450 million) per day, or a total of some P170 billion per year! And to think that all that money is literally being burned in the engines of motor vehicles for the simple chore of bringing people from one point to the other.

Only when that is clearly understood by Filipinos will they probably figure out that kind of individualized transportation system is too wasteful. First, because it burns too much expensive oil. Burning P450 million a day is something the Philippine economy certainly cannot afford. Second, because it causes serious air pollution, and thus damages the tender hearts and lungs of Filipino children. Third, because the aping by Filipinos of American-style individual mobility—with the narrow roads of the Philippines—is quite absurd. The land area of America is 30 times larger than the land area of the Philippines. What little (but rich) land we have would be better put to use for vegetation and food production, rather than for concrete roads. Fourth, the driving habits of Filipinos now manifesting itself in Philippine city streets is, mildly put, downright acts of vehicular terrorism.

Necessary option

The forward movement in transportation is, therefore, toward collective transportation systems. To the extent possible, non-motorized transport vehicles—that is, they do not rely on non-renewable fossil fuels as their source of energy—must be promoted.

When this shall have been understood well enough, everything else will become easy. The physical modification of the road system will simply reflect this understanding. To begin with, the concrete on the entire half of the road must be broken up and turned into a greenbelt, also known as a "vegetation corridor." The remaining half of the road will be broken up into four parts:

- A wide first lane for people to walk on (to paraphrase a former Filipino president: "Those who have less in wheels must have more in road").
- A second lane for bicycles
- A third lane for a Filipino-designed and better than world-class, collective transport system. The standard to be used is that it must be safe and passenger-friendly enough for children to use.
- A fourth lane for emergency vehicles, e.g., police, ambulances, etc. Private cars will be allowed entry only if they pay a substantial "congestion fee" (say P5,000 per entry) to enter the commercial business district (CBD).

With the greenbelt areas now opened up for vegetation, the air becomes cleaner and cooler. Especially in a tropical country like the Philippines, it is very pleasant to walk under the shade, year-round. The greenbelt areas can also be used for food production and employment generation. Unemployed people in the urban areas can be mobilized to plant organic vegetables to supply the city's needs. Urban-grown vegetables will, of course, be much cheaper. (Low transport cost will be a pleasant side effect of bringing the vegetables from the "farm" to the market.)

All these, however, are still difficult to think about as long as the price of oil still hovers at around $65 per barrel. But if it is $650 per barrel? Well, that is another story.

In that case, the absence of alternatives begins to clear the mind marvelously.

Antonio A. Oposa Jr. is an environmental lawyer.

THEY SAID

Creative ventures

"...We're not looking for people who just want to put up franchises or follow trends because they're safe ideas. You need to innovate on new types of businesses if you want to make a big impact on the economy and start up jobs. The more creative you are, the more risks you take."

—Fil-Am Ph.D. student Neil Ruiz on the Philippine Emerging Startups Open (Peso), a competition on the best business plan among locally based Filipino entrepreneurs

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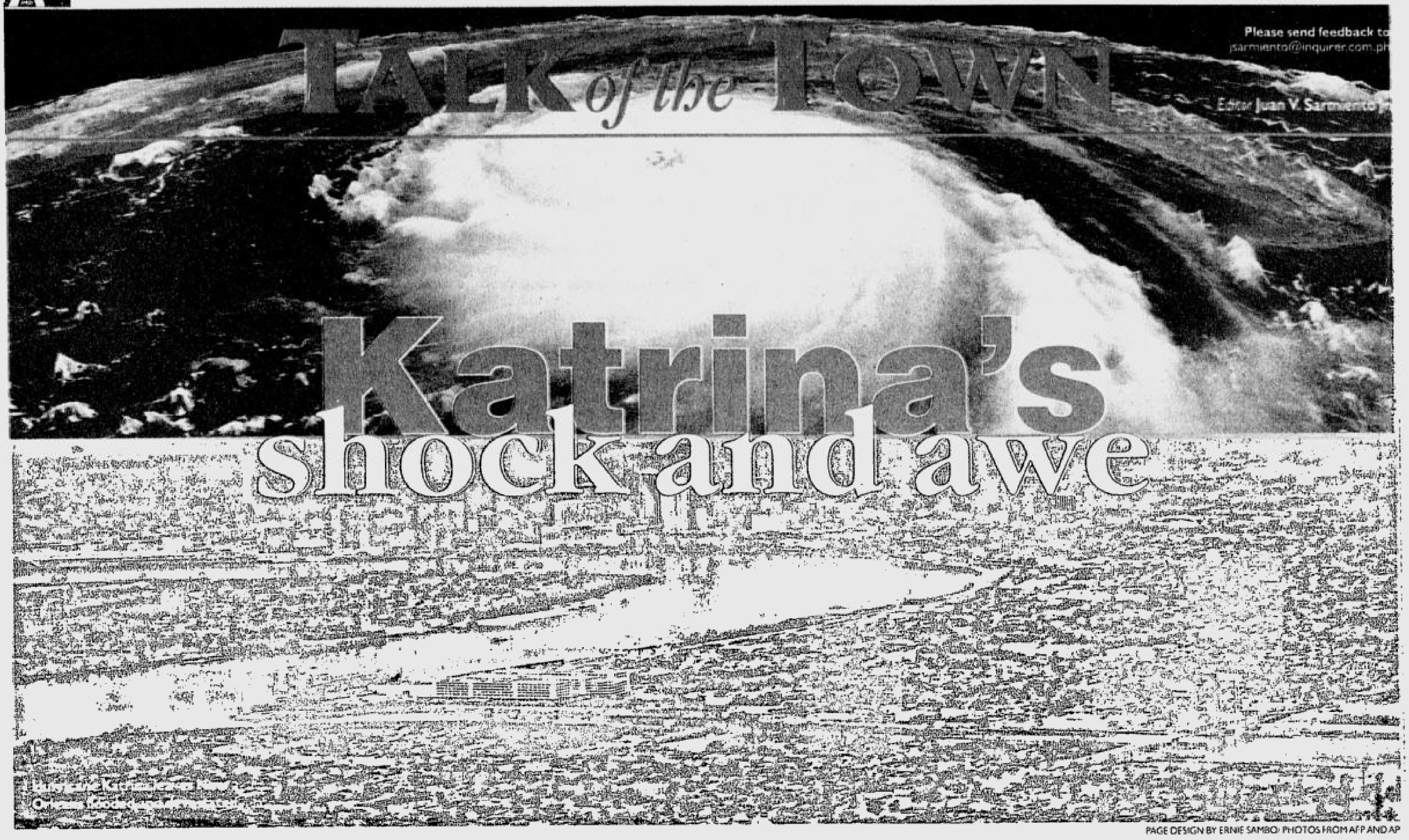


TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Katrina's shock and awe

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO/ PHOTOS FROM AFP AND AP

WITH WINDS OF UP TO 225 KPH, HURRICANE KATRINA PUMMELED NEW ORleans and other parts of the US Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, leaving a wide swath of destruction. Hundreds if not thousands died and tens of thousands of people left their homes in what Sen. Joseph Lieberman called "the biggest displacement since the Civil War." Damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure has been placed at more than $100 billion.

Shocking were images of people, mostly blacks, herded like cattle in New Orleans' Superdome without food and water days after Katrina made landfall. People died for lack of medical help and corpses were seen floating in the inundated city. Gunmen roamed the streets, looting, mugging and raping.

These were images associated with Third World countries, not the rich and powerful America. "It's disgusting. Not a single tourist caught in the tsunami was mugged. We can easily see where the civilized part of the world population is," said Sajeewa Chinthaka of Sri Lanka.

More shocking was a catalogue of official mismanagement, neglect and ineptitude, prompting calls for the sacking of Michael Brown, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. President George W. Bush was not spared the criticism. "After 9/11, all the country really needed from him was a speech. This time it needed action and he didn't deliver," wrote economist Paul Krugman.

What went wrong?

SOME REASONS WHY THE United States did not protect and rescue its citizens from a natural disaster.

- The absorption of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) into the gargantuan and terrorism-focused Department of Homeland Security.

"What the events of the last week have shown is that over the last few years since Sept. 11 we have slowly disassembled our national emergency-response system and put in its place something far inferior," says Bill Waugh, an academic expert on emergency response management at Georgia State University.

Many of last week's problems are rooted in January 2003, when the Bush administration, urged on by some members of Congress, created the Homeland Security Department. It amalgamated 22 agencies, from the Coast Guard to the Secret Service, creating the largest government bureaucracy since the Pentagon was formed in 1947.

Fema's clout had long depended on its ability to help states plan for natural disasters by providing emergency-preparedness grants and other resources. Under Homeland Security, grant-making decisions were transferred to a new, department-wide office in an attempt to consolidate funding. As a result, Fema lost control of more than $800 million in preparedness grants since 2003.

State emergency managers and congressional investigators say the overwhelming focus for grants is now on fighting terrorism. More money goes to local police and fire departments for that mission than responding to and recovering from disasters.

Because of worries that terrorists could take advantage of such chaos [resulting from the destruction caused by Katrina], Fema must abide by post-Sept. 11 security procedures, such as putting air marshals on flights. That meant stranded residents couldn't be evacuated from the New Orleans airport until Fema had rounded up dozens of Transportation Security Administration screeners and more than 50 federal air marshals. Inadequate power prevented officials from firing up X-ray machines and metal detectors until the government decided evacuees could be searched manually.

- A military stretched thin by wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which made commanders reluctant to commit some active-duty units nearby.

Four weeks before the hurricane, Lt. Col. Pete Schneider, of the Louisiana National Guard, told WGNP, a local ABC affiliate, that when guard members left for Iraq last October, they took with them a lot of needed equipment with them, including dozens of high-water vehicles, Humvees, refueling tankers and generators that would be needed in the event a major natural disaster hit the state.

The US Army has a large facility, Fort Polk, in Leesvile, Louisiana, about 430 km northwest of New Orleans. Officials at Fort Polk, which has nearly 8,000 active-duty soldiers, said their contribution so far has consisted of a few dozen soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division manning purification equipment and driving half-ton trucks filled with supplies and equipment. The first contingent of soldiers didn't receive orders until Saturday afternoon [Sept. 3].

A spokesperson at Fort Polk said she didn't know why the base received its deployment orders so late in the game. A senior army official said the service was reluctant to commit the 4th brigade of the 10th Mountain Division from Fort Polk, because the unit, which numbers several thousand soldiers, is in the midst of preparing for an Afghanistan deployment in January.

Instead, the Pentagon chose to send upwards of 7,500 soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, along with marines from California and North Carolina. Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division are able to deploy anywhere in the world in 18 hours. It took several days for them to arrive on the ground in Louisiana.

- A total breakdown of communications system.

Flooding and power shortages appear to be behind most of the serious communications problems, but incompatible radio systems didn't help.

Emergency responders in New Orleans and three nearby parishes all use different radio systems. New Orleans and nearby Jefferson Parish both use radios that operate on the 800-megahertz band, but they were manufactured by different vendors. That means officials there had as many as five channels on which to talk to one another.

New Orleans officials had equipment at the fire department's communication center that could link otherwise incompatible local and federal systems. It was reportedly knocked out by flooding.

Another problem: Even after Sept. 11, local officials and federal emergency responders don't typically use the same radio frequencies, which can make communication difficult until agreements are reached on sharing channels.

- Missteps at the local level, including a rudimentary plan to deal with hurricanes.

The missteps ranged from a failure to take basic steps to protect the telecommunications infrastructure to inadequate food and water at the Superdome. New Orleans maybe able to stage events such as Mardi Gras and Jazzfest and provide parking, crowd control and adequate toilets for millions of visitors but its hurricane plan was more rudimentary. "Get people to higher ground and have the feds and the state airlift supplies to them—that was the plan, man," Mayor Ray Nagin said.

- A failure to plan for the possibility that New Orleans' levee system would fail

The possible problems had long been trumpeted. In June 2004, Fema spent more than half a million dollars to commission a "catastrophic hurricane disaster plan" from IEMX Inc., a Baton Rouge-based emergency-management and homeland security consulting firm.

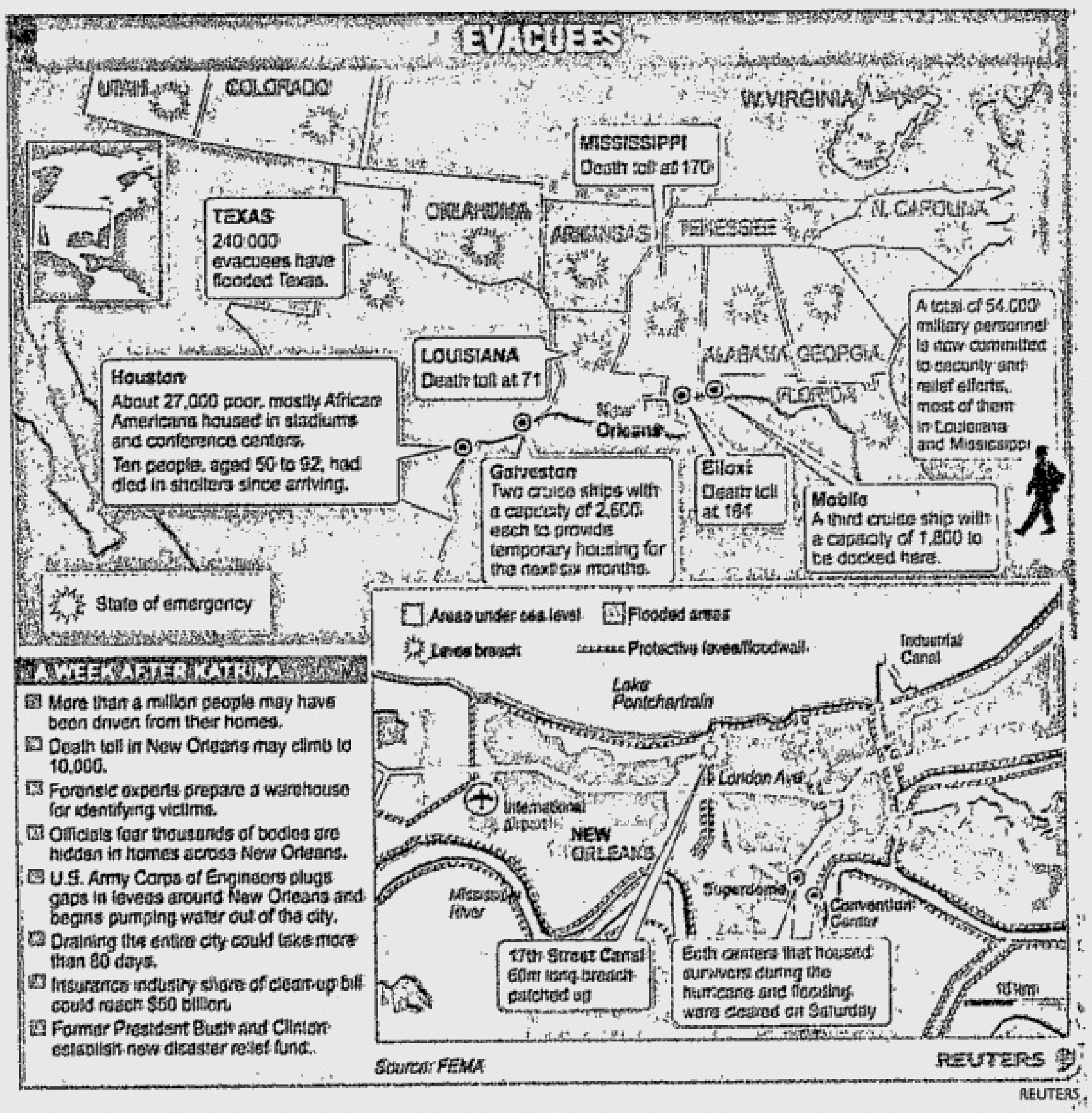
A report analyzing results of a mock hurricane hitting New Orleans, dubbed "Hurricane Pam," a Category 3 storm which featured 190-km-per-hour winds and a storm surge that topped New Orleans' levees. For reasons that aren't clear, the mock exercise never anticipated the levees giving up.

(Source: "Weak links hurt response to Katrina," Asian Wall Street Journal, Sept. 7.)

Cyclone 101

"HURRICANE" AND "TYPHOON" ARE region-specific names for a strong tropical cyclone with winds 118 kph or higher. Hurricanes occur over the Atlantic Ocean or adjacent seas. Typhoons occur in the Pacific Ocean, the China Sea or adjacent seas.

Tropical cyclones are intensely developed low-pressure systems over tropical or subtropical waters. When they have maximum sustained winds of less than 63 kph, they are called tropical depressions. Past 63 kph, they are called tropical storms and assigned a name. Past 118 kph, they may be called hurricanes, typhoons, willy-nillies (around Australia), or simply a cyclone or tropical cyclone (in the Indian Ocean region).



EVACUEES
UTAH
COLORADO
W.VIRGINIA
MISSISSIPPI Death toll at 170
TEXAS 240,000 evacuees have flooded Texas.
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
TENESSEE
N. CAROLINA
LOUISIANA Death toll at 71
ALABAMA
GEORGIA
FLORIDA
A total of 54,000 military personnel is now committed to security and relief efforts, most of them in Louisiana and Mississippi
Houston About 27,000 poor, mostly African Americans housed in stadiums and conference centers. Ten people, aged 50 to 92, had died in shelters since arriving.
New Orleans
Galveston Two cruise ships with a capacity of 2,600 each to provide temporary housing for the next six months.
Biloxi Death toll at 164
Mobile A third cruise ship with a capacity of 1,800 to be docked here.
State of emergency
Areas under sea level
Flooded areas
Levee breach
Protective levee/floodwall
Industrial Canal
Lake Pontchartrain
London Ave
International Airport
NEW ORLEANS
Mississippi River
Superdome
Convention Center
17th Street Canal 60m long breach patched up
Both centers that housed survivors during the hurricane and flooding were cleared on Saturday
10 km

A WEEK AFTER KATRINA

- More than a million people may have been driven from their homes.
- Death toll in New Orleans may climb to 10,000.
- Forensic experts prepare a warehouse for identifying victims.
- Officials fear thousands of bodies are hidden in homes across New Orleans.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plugs gaps in levees around New Orleans and begins pumping water out of the city.
- Draining the entire city could take more than 80 days.
- Insurance industry share of clean-up bill could reach $60 billion.
- Former President Bush and Clinton establish new disaster relief fund.

Source: FEMA

REUTERS

REUTERS

Economic loss

The economic loss from the hurricane that devastated New Orleans and a swath of communities along the Gulf Coast will total around $175 billion, according to Paul Getman, chief executive officer of Economy.com.

Most of that—$100 billion—is damage to homes, businesses, roads, bridges, levees, telecommunications, water and sewer systems and other public infrastructure, he said.

Another $25 billion is the cost of disrupted economic activity. Larger energy bills faced by consumers and businesses make up the other $50 billion.

Cost estimates for relief and recovery efforts from Hurricane Katrina are running as high as $150 billion.

In the Gulf of Mexico, which accounts for a quarter of total US oil output, 92 percent of crude and 83 percent of natural gas production were shut down, according to government data.

Up to 40 percent of refinery production along a wide swath of the US coast from Texas in the west to Florida in the east was said to be affected.

Sources: The Times Picayune and AFP

Filipinos help 'kababayan'

By Rufino 'Pinoy' Gonzales II
PNS

HOUSTON—A 38-YEAR-OLD Filipino drove 300 miles from Katrina-struck New Orleans all the way here, seeking refuge for his two kids aged 4 and 8 years old.

Ramir Bioc, a Caviteño businessman, left behind his wife Monica, who works as a nurse in Turo Hospital, New Orleans. She was not allowed to leave work because of the emergency situation.

It was a calm Saturday morning (Aug. 27) when Monica left for work, unaware that a hurricane would hit New Orleans in two days. Then the winds started to howl and before noon, the Federal government of Louisiana gave a "mandatory order" for all citizens of New Orleans to leave at once.

Ramir and the kids left for Houston with a group of friends at 4 p.m. They encountered a jampacked I-10 freeway going west to Texas, which turned the usual four-hour ride into a 20-hour turtle-paced trip.

They arrived in Houston on Sunday and booked themselves in a $60-a-day hotel room.

The following day, Ramir and his kids were glued to the TV watching in horror as hurricane Katrina pounded New Orleans. They decided to go back to their house on Tuesday after the storm passed.

When Ramir went to pay for another day's stay, he was surprised that the hotel had jacked up rates to $125 a day. Fearing they would lose their room to the evacuees arriving in Houston, Ramir paid up but was angry that the hotels were making money out of people's tragedies.

On Monday afternoon (Aug. 29), the news reported that water surged as high as 20 feet and had breached the levees protecting New Orleans from the waters of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. The city was flooded with 10 feet of water.

Ramir tried to call up Monica in the hospital but all power and communication lines were down in New Orleans.

On Wednesday, Ramir called a friend of his mother's and asked if he and his two kids could stay in her apartment. Two other families had also called with the same purpose.

The friend asked permission from Susan and Ben Ongoco, owners of the Spring Pines Apartments, if she could take them in. To her surprise, the Ongocos offered a three-bedroom apartment free of charge to the three families.

In the afternoon, the families were visited by Norma and Meridith Bengzon and Rolly Rasos—officers of Filipino-American Council of Southern Texas in Houston who brought food, canned goods and rice.

On Sept. 1, they received another visit from the Millennium Lions Club members, another Filipino group, who also brought food and relief goods.

Later in the day, Ramir finally received a call from his wife who said she was OK and that she was staying in a colleague's home about an hour from her hospital.

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Unicef says kids used in combat in RP

DAVAO CITY—THE PHILIPPINES continues to be in the list of countries where children are recruited for combat by rebel groups, according to a top official of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

"We have monitored and we have reported the recruitment of minors by all non-state parties," said Foroogh Foyouzat, Unicef chief for child protection section in the country.

Foyouzat visited the city recently.

Foyouzat said the report can also be gleaned from documents at the UN Security Council.

The recruitment of children as combatants in the Philippines has made the country in the list, which also includes Sudan, Somalia, Liberia and Burma.

She, however, would not name a particular rebel group or "non-state party" that has recruited minors.

Foyouzat said the report refers to "all" parties which do not belong to government forces.

There are two major rebel groups in the country currently—the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist New People's Army.

Foyouzat said a "child soldier," as defined in the so-called "Cape Town" definition by the UN, refers to any person under 18 years, "who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed forces or armed group in any capacity."

This includes being a cook, porter, messenger.

She said the definition also includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and forced marriages.

"It does not, therefore only refer to a child, who is carrying or has carried arms," Foyouzat said.

In the Philippines, Foyouzat said about 10 to 30 percent of children in conflict areas had been recruited by rebel groups.

"It can be forced or voluntary recruitment," Foyouzat said, adding that children whose parents are rebels perceive they are in an army but have no idea what they are fighting for. *Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GLORIA
GOODBYE!

EVENING PRAYER BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU
Protesters in Davao City light up candles in the streets to add their voices to the call for President Arroyo's resignation.

Social workers take baby sold by parents

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE CITY Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) here Friday took custody of a three-month-old boy earlier sold by his parents.

The incident evoked mixed reactions from the public.

Some angry callers said over the radio that live-in partners Roel and Rita Papua don't deserve a place in a civilized society.

The parents sold the baby last Sept. 7 to their neighbor Herlinda Valiente of Zone 4, Block 4, Fatima village.

It was not known how much the baby was sold for.

When he arrived in the evening, Romy Valiente became mad upon learning of the incident.

Romy knew that what transpired was a violation of Republic Act No. 9208 or the Anti-Human Trafficking Law.

To avoid a fight with her husband, Herlinda decided to give the baby to her neighbor, who was identified as Arlene Abando.

However, Arlene is already in a tight situation because she has three children.

She immediately reported the incident to the police.

The CSWDO learned about the incident when local reporters picked up the issue.

CSWDO representatives went to Abando's residence on Friday afternoon and secured the baby.

Rose Delima, head of the CSWDO women's and children's welfare desk, said they would investigate to determine the liability of the parents and the family who bought the baby. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

2 dead in Digos

DAVAO CITY—The death of a policeman and a civilian marred the celebration Thursday of the 6th founding anniversary of Digos City in Davao del Sur. Police said PO2 Eugenio Valdez, a member of the police's Special Action Forces, 28, and Augusto Derequito, 49, of Mabini Street, Digos City, were killed following a disagreement around 11:50 p.m. Another civilian, Orlando Sumastre Jr., 18, of Hagonoy town in Davao del Sur, was wounded by a stray bullet.

2 in 'love triangle' dead

SAN MATEO, Isabela—Two men, who had a fight over a woman, died on Thursday after the grenade they were grappling with exploded in Barangay Salinungan West here. Senior Supt. Percival Barba, Isabela police director, said Cirilo Ventura, the woman's husband, and Virgilio Bonita, were killed instantly while Linda Ventura, Cirilo's wife, was treated for shrapnel wounds at the De Vera Hospital in Santiago City.

Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Steel factory raided

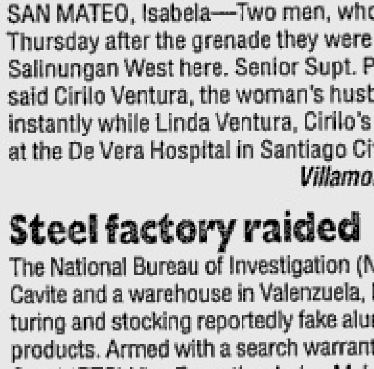
The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday raided a steel plant in Cavite and a warehouse in Valenzuela, Metro Manila on suspicion of manufacturing and stocking reportedly fake aluminum-zinc coated galvanized iron (GI) products. Armed with a search warrant issued by Cavite City Regional Trial Court (RTC) Vice Executive Judge Melchor Q.C. Sadang, NBI agents swooped down on the production facility of Sonic Steel Industries Inc., in Barangay Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City in Cavite. Another team of NBI agents, on the strength of a search warrant issued by Muntinlupa City Regional Trial Court Judge Alberto L. Lerma, raided Taisan Commercial, a warehouse in Valenzuela which contained an estimated P54 million worth of reportedly fake Galvalume GI products. Close to 10,000 sheets were confiscated by the raiding team.

Steel company cries foul

CALAMBA CITY—A Cavite-based steel manufacturing firm on Wednesday cried foul over the alleged unlawful raid on their plant in Trece Martires City last Tuesday. Lawyer Joel Butuyan, counsel of Sonic Steel Inc. (SSI), said they would sue their rival company, Steel Corp. of the Philippines (Steelcorp), and agents of the National Bureau of Investigation for the illegal raid on their factory in Barangay Hugo Perez. He said the NBI's search on their main plant should be deemed unlawful as the subject of the raid is still being heard at a court in Manila. He claimed officials of Steelcorp deceived the NBI and Cavite City court Judge Melchor Sadang, who issued the search warrant, into believing "that they had a case against us." "This is a clear case of forum shopping and unfair trade practice. They (Steelcorp) are discrediting and destroying our reputation," Butuyan told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Puerto cemetery filled up


ANO BA'YAN-UNAHAN SA SEMENTERYO !

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—While it is hard to find a living, in this city, dying would be harder. To this date, only four slots are available at the Puerto Princesa City cemetery, the biggest public cemetery in the area. But with the number of funerals in different funeral parlors counted, the four slots would be taken in a matter of three days. This is the dilemma the city government is facing now because there is no more available space and clearing and planning for a new one would take longer. According to Bernard Dacuan, the cemetery's caretaker, once the four slots were already taken, they could no longer accept more funerals. No reservation is allowed but it would be on a first-come-first-served basis. He said that once they accept more than the required slot, the cemetery would look like a squatters' area where anyone could just build "nitso" anywhere. He instead proposed to use spaces already occupied by departed relatives but only to a maximum three-tiered "nitsos" because the base might collapse. "Or they could exhume the graveyard of their loved ones who are dead long time ago so they could use the space for another departed loved one," Dacuan said. He also suggested the use of other public cemeteries located in some barangays.

Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Asian summit vs drugs set in Puerto Princesa City

SOME 400 INTERNATIONAL anti-drug specialists and chief executives of Asian cities renew their united campaign against the global scourge of drug abuse when the 2nd Asian Cities Against Drugs (Ascad) Summit unfolds in Puerto Princesa City on Monday.

The four-day (Sept. 12-15) regional anti-drugs summit is organized by the Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program and will focus on the theme: "Asian Cities Against Drugs from Conceptualization to Implementation."

As of yesterday, the following countries have confirmed attendance at the conference: Malaysia, Pakistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, India, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, Nepal, Maldives and the United States.

Douglas Hagedorn, chief of the city's Drug Enforcement Action Division or Task Force DEAD and elder brother of the city mayor, said the city was chosen as the venue of the second regional anti-drugs conference after it successfully eradicated the drug-menace in all of the city's 66 barangays in less than two years.

"Puerto Princesa City holds the distinction of being one of the country's local government units that has been declared drug-syndicate free because of its campaign against drug dealers and pushers.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Mindanaoans divided on street protests

AFTER JUNKING THE LOZANO impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo, the opposition has been rallying the people to unseat her for allegedly committing fraud during the 2004 elections.

VERBATIM

Do the so-called ordinary folk want to support the call?

The INQUIRER conducted a random survey in major areas of Mindanao and here are some responses:

"We might just have to leave her alone, since she won't step down." –**Roger Anim,** *33, trisikad driver, Davao City*

"I believe President Arroyo is guilty when she apologized to the nation. The protesters should continue to go to the streets and intensify calls for the President to step down." –**Mary Ann Mangitngit,** *17, vendor, Davao City*

"It is a must that she steps down from office. She has not served the public well enough." –**Fortunata Juan,** *67, newspaper vendor, Davao City*

"We want the truth here but what they are saying is that it has to be legal, constitutional. Does the truth have to be legal?" –**Francisco Tale,** *71, retired employee, Babac, Samal Island*

"Lawmaker, lawbreaker. After they junked the impeachment [complaints], people have no other venue but the streets." –**Marivic Cuamag,** *45, store owner, Davao City*

"If we were there, we would have joined [the street protests], too." –**Leonardo Cuamag,** *Agdao, Davao City*

"I think the impeachment proceedings should go on. But because they have stopped it, people have nowhere to go but the streets. Many people could no longer trust her." –**Joan Ballerda,** *19, Internet café staff, Davao City*

"I agree that only protests could force her out of office and that the system could change once that happened." –**Ronnel Calunsag,** *warehouseman, Davao City*

"They should not have rushed the dismissal of the complaint so we would know the real score." –**Rudy Luzano,** *security guard, Davao City*

"With or without the impeachment proceeding, the truth about the Garci tape controversy should be established." –**Daniel Daquiado,** *22, sales attendant, Davao City*

"I don't care what's going on in Manila. I will not waste my time talking or debating with other people about it because there's nothing we could get out of it." –**Merlinda Tabulayan,** *laundry woman, Mati, Davao Oriental*

"The opposition has already lost the battle. As a result, the public was discouraged from joining them because they have lost the momentum simply because they could not present a credible alternative to the Arroyo administration. The political opposition is no different from the current administration." –**Amorsolo San Diego,** *23, college student, Mati, Davao Oriental*

"Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should not be allowed to remain in office. If she continues to govern, it will mean that she is not guilty of the accusations against her. Continued mass actions should be encouraged to force her to resign." –**Ildefonso Montemayor,** *23, working student, St. Theresa College, Tandag, Surigao del Sur*

"I am in favor of the protests to force her out of office." –**Guillerma dela Peña,** *45, vegetable vendor, Tandag, Surigao del Sur*

"It is about time the Filipino people shake off apathy and be vigorous in demanding the ouster of President Arroyo. The highest official of the country trying to shut out the truth from coming out and shunning an opportunity to clear her name is a big disgrace." –**Domingo Marcojos,** *tricycle driver, Ozamiz City*

"It is a big shame having [President Arroyo] as our President. But joining mass actions to oust her would not do any better, either. Who will replace her as President when the loudest voices in the current street protests do not like Kabayan Noli, or the constitutional process, to operate in case GMA stepped down? They seem to be in the right direction but they are not offering us the right alternatives." –**Rannie Pagal,** *Zamboanga del Sur*

"I just want a straightforward answer: If Arroyo resigns now, will the price of oil drop to affordable levels? This is the very factor my daily income as driver has been squeezed heavily by fuel cost." –**Roger Umanoy,** *motorcycle driver, Ozamiz City*

"I would prefer the mass action to oust GMA from power. She cheated the Filipino people. Is this the kind of leader we would want to stay in the next five years? Ousting her is the general sentiment and will of the Filipinos and I believe it should prevail." –**Mary Lucille Lim,** *St. John's School, Malaybalay City*

"Gloria is not my President anymore. She should go." –**Kevin Ladd Eduave,** *student, Bukidnon State College, Malaybalay City*

"Yes, I would rather join mass actions to remove GMA from power because majority of the Filipinos want her out. If she insists in staying, chaos would [ensue]. I hope she would step down to prevent bloodshed." –**Liezl Balbon,** *store owner, Malaybalay City*

"The so-called parliament of the streets would be the last resort in our quest for truth and justice. But it must be peaceful and orderly. It would be impossible for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to get the support of the people, except those who are directly benefiting from her presidency, either through monetary or political considerations. We will never be free from bondage and disunity unless truth and justice are dispensed with. She must be tried to clear herself from the charges and sleepless nights." –**Juliana Bueno,** *retired nurse, Cotabato City*

"There is not enough mass actions that could convince lawmakers. When there is pressure, these lawmakers will eventually decide according to what their constituents would like them to do." –**Genesis Ponggo,** *36, tricycle driver, Pagadian City*

"The only way to resolve the Garci and 'jueteng' issues will be in the streets." –**Almendra Hersiñada,** *50, businesswoman, Pagadian City*

"I believe the President is not that guilty that she deserved to be impeached." –**Gladys Ando,** *27, store clerk, Pagadian City*

"The people are tired of Arroyo, people power, why not?" –**Bunog Husay,** *beautician, Butuan City*

"I don't care about it, it would not help raise our standards of living." –**Pablo Linod,** *tricycle driver, Butuan City*

"Protest actions have long been irrelevant. Imperial Manila won't hear us anyway." –**Obet Samonte,** *Butuan City reporter, Mindanao Goldstar Daily*

"I am for the rallies. The Constitutional impeachment, which is supposed to be the most formidable weapon in the arsenal of democracy, is a mockery in the Philippines. Members of Congress never vote on conscience." –**Jerich Cuasito,** *political science teacher, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte*

"GMA should resign and the mass actions must proceed." –**Glocelito Jayma,** *lawyer, Butuan City*

"The people should unite to drive the bogus President out of office." –**Roel Daliva,** *grocery worker, General Santos City*

Ryan Rosauro, Grace Albasin, Charlie Señase, Michael Sarcauga, Tina Cassion, Bert Pacate, Ferdinand Zuasola, Germelina Lacorte, Dennis Santos, Aquiles Zonio, Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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De La Salle head warns of military intervention

From page A1

"Obviously, he will take over to ensure the security of the President's political stature, or maybe another accommodation. *Nagbabayad na naman ng utang na loob* (Once again, a debt of gratitude is being repaid)," the officer said.

Like toy soldiers

Another officer, a captain, also zeroed in on Ms Arroyo's choice of Adan for the Southcom post, bypassing Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, whom the Board of Generals had recommended for the position.

"Officers are dismayed. Adan had not handled a division, now he's heading Southcom," the officer said. "It only goes to show how the AFP is being played like toy soldiers by politicians, particularly GMA."

He said Adan's appointment was "very frustrating and enraging."

"How can we be apolitical then? It's really politics," the officer said. "We believe the administration really wants to put [Maj. Gen. Gabriel] Habacon there ... By putting Adan until January [when he retires], they can later put Habacon."

Habacon, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, was one of the officers mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes dealing with Ms Arroyo's supposed involvement in cheating during the 2004 elections.

Officers said Habacon had also been eyeing the Southcom post.

The captain said junior officers were angry that "the AFP is being used for political ends, like the election."

"Sometimes I think maybe I should get out, go to another country," he said. "It's that frustrating. Our class is divided. Some are against GMA, others said they have to follow orders and they have no choice."

Tainted by politics

In Mindanao, junior officers expressed mixed reactions on the sidetracking of Bagasin.

"We indeed prepared everything for General Bagasin. We were just waiting then for the final approval from the President," said a junior officer, who requested anonymity.

He said the choice for the Southcom post had become tainted with politics.

"Merit in service is no longer honored once you reach higher rank. The name of the game here is, knowing people in the Palace," he added.

Luistro said the most viable way to diffuse the situation was for the President to step down from office.

"With Arroyo's resignation, that would lead to an easing of the political tension, the situation fueling military adventurism is removed," Luistro said.

Bukluran was formed in the aftermath of the House of Representatives' vote dismissing the impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo, and has called for her resignation.

To wait for people

A ranking officer who did not want to be identified said the cause of restiveness in the Armed Forces was far deeper than the dismissal of the impeachment cases against Ms Arroyo.

"The Arroyo administration has repeatedly humiliated the Armed Forces," the officer said. "We are ashamed."

"Officers are asking, when are we going to move? How long will we [tolerate] this?" he said.

The officer, a seasoned combatant, warned the administration against underestimating the number of agitated soldiers.

Asked why the soldiers had not intervened in the political crisis, the officer said they wanted to make sure the people were behind them.

He said one point of discussion among the officers was whether to wait for the people to go to the streets, or move in and then ask the people to support them.

The second option will spare the civilians from a lot of harm, he said.

"And, as you can see, the civilian [sector] has been unable to muster a critical mass," he said.

Without full authority?

Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the 103rd Infantry Brigade in Basilan, said that as officer in charge, Adan could not "exercise full authority."

"As an OIC, you cannot issue official guidelines," Ferrer said.

Adan was quick to react.

"I am not a caretaker. I have the power to sign anything," he said.

Ferrer and the other junior officers believe the bypassing of Bagasin, commander of the 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro, would stir disillusionment among young officers and Bagasin's classmates.

"Specially if the area is quite politicized, like Cagayan de Oro, of course, officers close to him would be affected," Ferrer said.

Source of pocket mutinies

Ferrer told the INQUIRER the 4th Infantry Division has been known for its involvement in pocket mutinies, particularly during the time of former President Cory Aquino.

"These officials will realize that merit is not a basis for promotion once papers reached Malacañang," another junior officer agreed.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga said that appointing Adan Southcom chief on temporary status did not violate AFP regulations.

Senga said the AFP rule prohibiting a general from being appointed to a command if he had less than a year remaining in service "applies only to positions" such as major service commanders.

Gold rules

"Lateral movement as in the case of Adan ... is allowed," Senga said.

But a younger general, who declined to be identified, joked: "The golden rule here is who has the gold rules."

Marine Brig. Gen. Benjamin Muhammad Dolorfino said the choice of Southcom chief was the prerogative of the appointing authority. "We always respect the decision of the higher authority," Dolorfino said.

Another officer said military restiveness had been fanned by other controversies, such as the San Mateo raid involving the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, the Doble incident and the medal of valor controversy.

The officer lamented that under the Arroyo administration, what counted was "loyalty, not merit." *With reports from Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Adan as Southcom OIC a compromise

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO may have wanted to avoid displeasing either of the two Army generals who were eyeing the post of Southern Command chief so she designated an officer-in-charge instead.

Military officers who tried to make sense of Ms Arroyo's decision appointing Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan to the Southcom post said this was the likely explanation.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, had been the choice of the Board of Generals.

But according to the grapevine, which was confirmed by official sources, Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon vigorously lobbied Malacañang for the post.

Habacon, commander of the 1st Infantry Division, has denied this.

Habacon was among the generals mentioned in the "Hello Garci" taped conversations supposedly between Ms Arroyo and an election commissioner dealing with alleged poll fraud.

One military officer told the INQUIRER that Ms Macapagal clearly did not want to displease Habacon by picking Bagasin. But she also did not want to displease Bagasin by naming Habacon.

Imelda on Marcos burial ...

From page A1

"In 24 hours I can have the burial arranged... all they have to do is tell me when," Mrs. Marcos told reporters at the Fort Ilocandia Resort and Casino here on Friday night.

Mrs. Marcos said President Macapagal-Arroyo had always signified her willingness to allow Marcos' burial at the heroes' cemetery after she was elected to office last year.

The Marcos widow, however, denied reports that a deal had been made between her and Ms Arroyo in exchange for a hero's burial for her late husband.

She also dismissed speculations that her daughter Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos' no-show at the plenary voting at the House of Representatives on the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo was in exchange for the President's approval of the late strongman's burial.

Mrs. Marcos recalled that in 1998, then newly elected President Joseph Estrada gave her the green light to bury her husband at the Libingan. She even had a platform mounted on a lot reserved for Marcos at the cemetery but the burial was called off due to a public backlash.

"This should have been done long ago. It is not only a legal right but it is something natural and sacred... an honorable burial [for Marcos]," she said.

Sept. 29 burial

Asked to confirm reports that her husband's Libingan burial was set for Sept. 28, the strongman's 16th death anniversary, Mrs. Marcos said: "That will happen because it is only right. This is a sacred right of an individual to have an honorable burial. I don't have doubts about this."

For years, the Marcoses had repeatedly asked every sitting President to allow Marcos' refrigerated remains to be buried at the Libingan ng Mga Bayani.

Marcos' body was brought to his family's ancestral home in Batac, Ilocos Norte, in 1993 after the family was allowed to return to the country after living in exile in Hawaii since 1986. The strongman died in Hawaii in 1989.

Mrs. Marcos, along with her grandchildren and younger daughter Irene Marcos-Araneta, arrived in this city on Friday night to supervise the preparations for Marcos' 88th birth anniversary today.

Family reunion

Mrs. Marcos went to Batac and stayed briefly at the newly built Marcos museum beside the family's compound.

The museum houses the strongman's various photographs and memorabilia set for public display in time for his birth anniversary.

Traditionally observed as a working holiday in Ilocos Norte if it falls on a weekday, the Marcos Day rites were made part of annual celebrations among the Marcoses in the company of friends, local and national officials and Marcos loyalists.

The other Marcos siblings, Representative Marcos and Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., were not part of the entourage which flew to the Laoag International Airport from Manila on Friday.

Worrying about Imee

Governor Marcos was set to arrive here on another flight from London also on Friday night while Rep. Marcos had not indicated whether she would attend the rites for her father's birthday.

Representative Marcos arrived in Manila Thursday night from Singapore where she holed up while the plenary voting at the House was going on.

Mrs. Marcos had reservations on whether her elder daughter would show up in Laoag to join the family in observing the rites for the patriarch.

"I am worried about Imee. I know she is embarrassed, humiliated and feels isolated. If it were not for Marcos' birthday, I would rush [back to Manila] and be with her," she said.

Mrs. Marcos admitted she had asked her daughter not to vote for the impeachment complaint.

Mother's advice

"[My advice to her was to] get out of it because it was only going to be divisive. I know she's suffering. She will not be visible for the next few days because she feels so humiliated [with all the talk that she had been bought off or there was a deal]," she said.

Mrs. Marcos, however, insisted that her daughter's no-show during the voting was not a result of a supposed secret deal with Ms Arroyo for a hero's burial for Marcos.

"We have no compromise with the Palace. We have no deal with anybody, including the President. My asking Imee to defer from that voting was purely an advice of a mother to a daughter," she said.

Mrs. Marcos said she and her daughter spent a series of discussions about the impeachment complaint, including consulting with lawyers on its implications.

According to Mrs. Marcos, it was during the deliberations of the three impeachment complaints by the House justice committee that she asked her daughter not to cast her vote "for the sake of peace and of the country."

GMA supporter

Mrs. Marcos has been openly supportive of Ms Arroyo since the impeachment crisis started hounding her presidency, giving rise to speculations that a secret deal had been struck between Malacañang and the Marcoses.

The Marcos widow said Ms Arroyo had always been in favor of a hero's burial for her husband since she was elected president last year.

She said the family's critics had prevented Ms Arroyo from allowing the burial.

Mrs. Marcos said she would continue following the rule of law. She said Filipinos should recognize Ms Arroyo as the country's leader until she resigns or is impeached.

"If I have to, I will go see her and volunteer myself to help her. Let's follow the law. I will volunteer not for GMA [alone] but for the Filipinos," she said.

Bishops set special meet

From page A1

Arroyo had rigged the 2004 election, among other supposed crimes.

But Navarra was evasive when pressed for details. He admitted that he was among those who had been invited to the meeting, but declined to say who had organized it and who were the other bishops attending.

Only a clarification

But in Manila, Capalla said the CBCP might issue a "clarification," not a reversal, of its position.

"We have a statement already that is very, very clear," Capalla said when asked by reporters if he thought it was timely for the CBCP to be taking a stand regarding the continuing tension following the just ended impeachment process.

Capalla said that if another statement was required, he had to first consult the bishops: "I cannot make a public statement without consulting the CBCP's permanent council."

But he ruled out a reversal of the CBCP's July 10 statement: "No, it would not be reversed. But we might issue a clarification [after the council meeting]."

Navarra is among the bishops in the Visayas who have declared their disappointment over the House vote on the impeachment case.

He has also said a number of bishops were rethinking their position and wanted the July 10 statement reviewed.

Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who has openly supported the impeachment process, also said last week he hoped the CBCP would call a meeting soon so its members could come up with an official stand on the matter.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, who will replace Capalla as CBCP president in January, was also dismayed by the House vote.

When asked last week about a possible review of the July 10 statement, Lagdameo said only the permanent council could decide whether the CBCP would change its stand.

Inadvertent disclosure

Navarra was said to have inadvertently disclosed tomorrow's special meeting when he received at the Bishop's Residence last Friday leaders of civil society and militant groups in Negros Occidental.

The groups, unhappy over the dismissal of the impeachment case, had decided to form a Negros chapter of the new anti-Arroyo coalition, Bukluran Para sa Katotohanan.

Fr. Anecito Buenafe, head of the Diocese of Bacolod's Social Action Center, yesterday said Navarra had told members of the coalition that he would convey their sentiments to the bishops who were set to meet in Manila tomorrow.

Buenafe said Navarra had asked the coalition members to come up with a position paper that he would present to the bishops.

He also quoted Navarra as saying that the House's Sept. 6 vote on the impeachment case had raised an urgent need for the bishops to find ways for the truth to prevail.

Navarra said he himself was happy that the initiative to form the new broad alliance in Negros had come from lay people.

"I told them I would just support them but that whatever initiative they would take should be nonviolent," he said.

"We need more prayers and cooler minds to find solutions to our nation's problems," he said, adding that violence could break out when emotions run high.

Navarra also reiterated that he did not believe street protests would be effective at this time. He said what was needed was to reach the people's hearts and minds by educating them on the issues plaguing the nation.

The major alliances that joined the Negros chapter of Bukluran were the Sept. 6 Movement, Negros Movement for Moral Regeneration, Convergence for Arroyo Resignation, Laban ng Masa and Lasallano Para sa Kamatooran.

'Banner of morality'

Apparently stung by the ranking clergymen's declaration that the CBCP could not insulate itself from moral issues, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago issued a statement that hinted of a protracted debate on the role of the Church in a political crisis.

"Clerics have no right to use the general banner of morality to meddle in politics. That would be a blatant violation of the constitutional provision that there is a wall of separation between Church and State," Santiago said.

In her latest tirade, the President's ally and defender said that if bishops would insist that a political issue was a moral issue, they had to define "what is political and what is moral."

"If not, the result will be that some bishops will always classify anything political as a moral issue, thus using morality as a cover for unconstitutional meddling in politics," she said in a statement.

Santiago further said it was "dangerous to society" to allow clergymen to decide what was legal and what was moral because the two concepts had "different scopes."

"Since many political issues sometimes end as judicial issues, for clerics to insist that any political and legal issue can be characterized as a moral issue would be an infringement on the power of the Supreme Court," she said.

She went as far as to say that the Penal Code did not exempt clerics from penalties for crimes against public order, such as crimes against popular representation; illegal assembly and association; assault upon and resistance and disobedience to persons in authority and their agents, and public disorder.

Santiago had earlier warned clergymen to keep off politics, invoking not only the doctrine of separation of Church and State but also a papal edict. She was reacting to statements by incoming CBCP president Lagdameo and other bishops that resignation remained an option for Ms Arroyo, and that the dismissal of the impeachment case meant that the people's search for truth was far from over.

But Monsignor Coronel and Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the CBCP could not confine itself "to the sacristy" or keep silent on politicians' "immoral acts."

Take it to court

As though echoing Santiago, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said it might be time for "concerned individuals" to question before the courts what political activities the Church could engage in.

Gonzalez said there was much "confusion" on the extent the Church could "intervene" in political affairs.

He said it might help if the courts, especially the Supreme Court, stepped in.

Gonzalez said American courts had been successful in settling issues of religion, including the banning of prayer in the public schools.

But he expressed doubt that the same could be done in the Philippines, a "strongly Catholic country." *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum in Manila; Jolene Bulambot and Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*

CBCP's permanent council

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is composed of Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, vice president; Cubao Bishop Honesto Ongtiongco, treasurer, and 12 regional representatives.

Luzon is represented by Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of Tuguegarao, Cagayan; Archbishop Paciano Aniceto of San Fernando, Pampanga; Bishop Joel Baylon of Masbate; Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez Jr. of Caloocan City, and Bishop Warlito Cajandig, vicar apostolic of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

Representing the Visayas are Bishop Jose Palma of Calbayog, Northern Samar and Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo of Capiz.

Mindanao is represented by Bishop Nereo Odchimar of Tandag, Surigao del Sur, and Bishop Angelito Lampon, vicar apostolic of Jolo, Sulu.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, is the council secretary. He is assisted by Fr. Juanito Figueroa.

The permanent council is serving a term of close to three years that ends on Nov. 30.

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GMA announces 23¢ cut per kWh in Meralco home bills this month

From page A1

maintenance of its power plants at this time, so for this period Meralco will buy power from its own plants," she said.

Temporary measure

But Ms Arroyo said this measure was a "temporary" one and that in the meantime, the government would look for other long-term solutions that would give people more relief from high oil prices.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco told Ms Arroyo that Meralco was studying how the different power plants of both Napocor and the IPPs could be optimized "to get the best price for the consumers of the entire Luzon."

Francisco said Meralco and Napocor were no longer rivals but were cooperating with each other "so we can get the best of the solution."

To reporters, Francisco said power would still be generated by a combination of Meralco's IPPs and Napocor.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said Meralco could not do it all alone even if it maximized its plants.

Preventive maintenance

On a monthly basis, Napocor plants produce power between 50 and 55 percent of the power needs while Meralco IPPS supply the rest, according to Francisco.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said that the plants that would undergo maintenance in the next weeks were those that were the costliest to run, like those using bunker fuel and imported fuel like imported coal.

Del Callar said Napocor would be able to complete the maintenance of these plants in the next two weeks. He noted that Meralco IPPs were already finished with the maintenance of its plants, having done this in the first half of the year.

Lotilla said within the next two weeks, the Energy Regulatory Commission would be supervising this "economic dispatch."

"This would involve running those generating plants that are least costly from the standpoint of the consumers," Lotilla told reporters.

Asked whether the implementation of the reformed VAT law would have any effect on power rates, Energy Secretary Mel Ocampo said the government had not factored this in but noted that Meralco still had to go to the ERC to ask permission to pass on to consumers the effect of the VAT implementation.

Long-term effects

Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) secretary general Renato Reyes Jr. said Malacañang's announcement of power rate reductions might seem good at first, but its long-term repercussions could prove to be more onerous to consumers.

In a statement, Reyes pointed out that allowing Meralco IPPs First Gas Power Corp. and Quezon Power Philippines Ltd. to provide more power to the distribution utility could further boost the debts of the already bleeding Napocor.

"By allowing Meralco to source more power from its sister companies, under the creative guise of preventive maintenance for Napocor, the state power firm will have to pay more for power because its plants will be underutilized and because Napocor has contractual obligations with other IPPs," he said.

Reyes recalled how badly Malacañang's decision to cap Napocor's purchased power cost adjustment (PPCA) at 40 centavos in May 2002 affected Napocor's finances.

The capping of Napocor's PPCA, or generation-related costs of power from IPPs that it could pass on to customers at 40 centavos per kWh, resulted in an 85-centavo slash per kWh in pass-on charges for Luzon customers and a 69-centavo average per-kWh reduction for all customers nationwide.

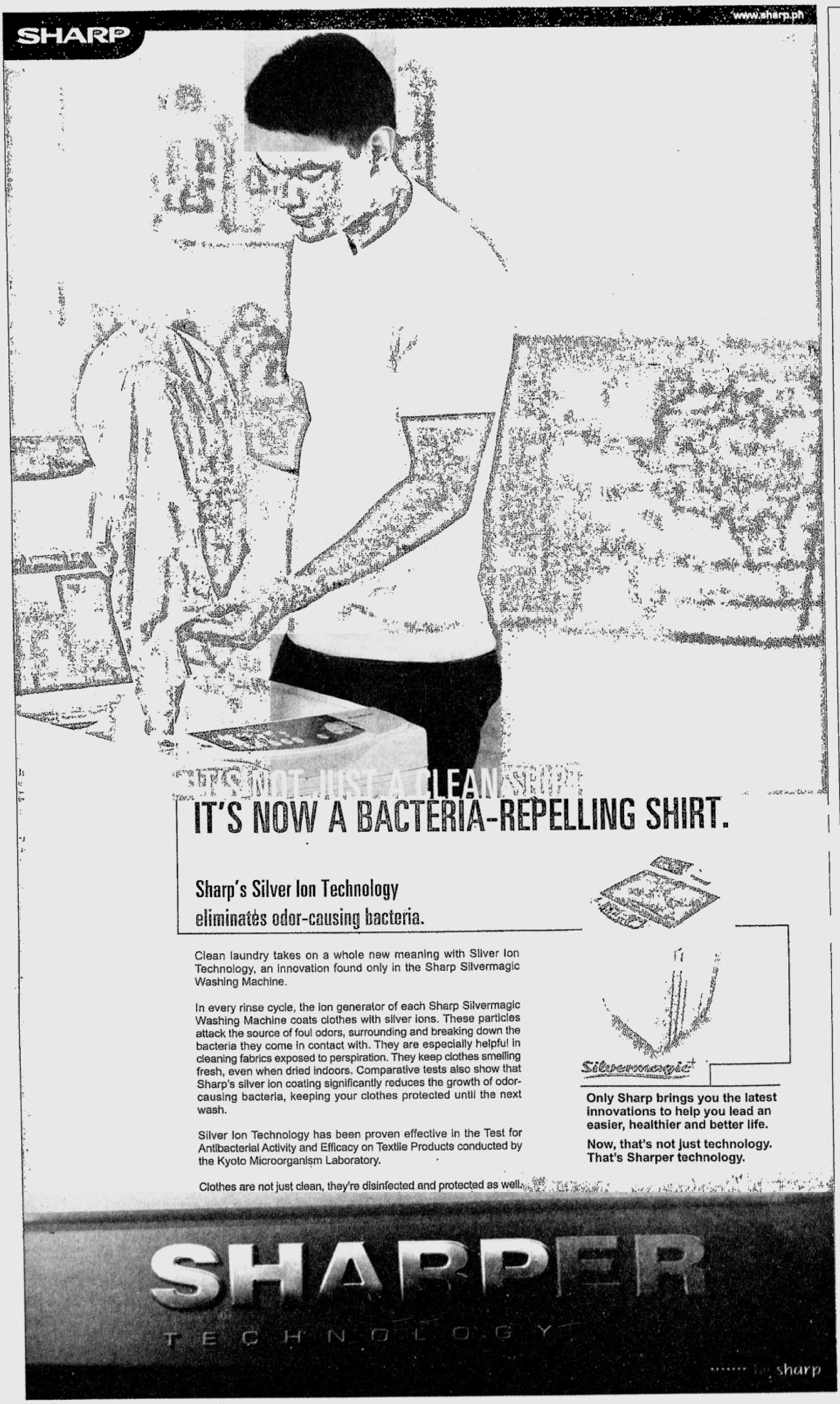
The cap, however, resulted in a P10.08-billion expense for Napocor in 2002 and another P2.07 billion in 2003.

Same effect

Reyes pointed out that the new Malacañang directive could have the same effect on Napocor's finances.

Lotilla was quick to say that the directive was only for two weeks, a temporary measure to allow the Energy Regulatory Commission to determine the dispatch scenario that would result in the lowest rates for consumers.

"Within that two-week period, the ERC will supervise the economic dispatch that is being done by the (Department of Energy, National Transmission Corp.) and Napocor to see what's the optimal dispatch. This is just a trial run," he said.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, September 11, 2005
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:9

Forgive and God will forgive you

Grudge and wrath, these also are abominations in which sinful people excel.

He who demands revenge will suffer the vengeance of the Lord who keeps a strict account of his sins. Forgive the mistakes of your neighbor and you may ask that your sins be forgiven.

If a man bears resentment against another, how can he ask God for healing? If he has no compassion on others, how can he pray for forgiveness for his sins? As long as he, mere flesh, is resentful, who will obtain his pardon?

Remember your end and give up hatred; keep in mind your final corruption in the grave and keep the commandments.

Remember the commandments and do not bear grudges against your neighbor. Remember the covenant with the Most High and overlook the offense.

2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Like Christ, no one should live for himself

Brothers and sisters, none of us lives for himself, nor dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Either in life or in death, we belong to the Lord; Christ experienced death and life to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Forgive from the heart

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but 77 times.

"This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold ingots. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

"The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you back everything.' The king took pity on him and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

"This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, 'Pay me what you owe!' His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, 'Give me time, and I will pay everything.' The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid all his debt.

"His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, 'Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?' The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to be punished, until he had paid his whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgive your brother or sister."

Commentary

Again and again in this season of Ordinary Time we hear it again: how many times do I have to forgive? The words are in Peter's mouth as the head of the disciples and the spokesperson for the Church but it is each our own question. And the story that Jesus tells is both comforting and harsh, filled with both mercy and just due demanding that we look to our own lives and see what we are doing to one another—and so, what our Father will do with us. We are forgiven a debt that is impossible to forgive. This is God's mercy in Jesus. And then do we go out and choke the life out of others demanding that they immediately compensate for what we think they have done to us? It is the other servants who are distressed and who go to the king—do we often distress the other members of our community by our cold-heartedness and lack of compassion, and lack of justice—that we forgive as we have been forgiven? How sincerely do we practice Jesus' word?

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A teacher finds her calling, finally

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FAIDAH Omar has found her place in the classroom, forming young minds. REM ZAMORA

FOR FAIDAH OMAR, TEACHING was a last option. But when it came knocking—twice—on her door, she took it.

"I never really wanted to teach. I prefer office work," said the 27-year-old *ustadz* (teacher) in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Omar earned a degree in International Relations from the Mindanao State University in Marawi City in 2000, and prepared for an office job.

But her eldest sister, a teacher in Saudi Arabia, encouraged her to take up several units in education.

"She told me if I earned units in education I could take her place in the school in Saudi Arabia where she worked," she said.

As she also dreamed of working abroad, she did as her sister suggested.

Her first taste of teaching came two months after graduation, when she returned to Maharlika Village, Taguig City.

She was offered a job at the Maharlika Bandar-inged Integrated School and she stayed for three years.

"I left when I felt I was getting sick. My voice was always hoarse," said Omar.

Long hours

She got a job in an office, working for a recruitment agency in Pasay City. But the long hours made her quit after a short while.

Her parents, especially her late mother, expected her to be home at a specific time.

"I have to be home at 5 p.m. The latest is 6 p.m.," said the youngest in a brood of 11.

After a two-year hiatus, she is now one of 52 *asatidz* that would build the foundation for Madrasah education in select public schools in Metro Manila.

The Madrasah program will teach Grades 1 and 2 Muslim students Islamic values and Arabic, even as they learn regular subjects in the elementary curriculum—English, mathematics, science, Filipino and makabayan.

Reluctant

"I did not want to teach again but my other sister insisted that I submitted my [resumé]," she said. Her father, who was an Arabic teacher, supported the idea.

Omar submitted her papers on the last day of the qualifying examination, arriving at the Maharlika Village Islamic Madrasah (MVIM) just 30 minutes before the test was over.

Even so, she managed to finish the exam before the deadline.

"I never really expected that I would pass, much less top the qualifying exam," she said.

As a student, she was just average, doing only what was expected of her. She was also not competitive, she admitted.

She joined 15 others from Taguig City in the live-in 22-day training program, "Beginning English and Teaching Strategies for Asatidz", at the Regional Educational Learning Center (RELC) in Marikina City in July.

Omar finished the training as a salutatorian. She and five others who were among the top 10 graduates of the training program were honored by the Taguig City government.

The program was also participated in by 52 teachers from the cities of Manila, Quezon, Parañaque and Pasay where other pilot schools were located.

"I [was surprised] and at the same time fulfilled because all of my sacrifices paid off," she said.

"I am not the type who would volunteer. But when a task is given to me, I would do it diligently," she added.

Finishing second in the training program created more teaching opportunities for Omar. She was hired to teach the Madrasah curriculum every Saturday at the Maharlika Elementary School.

About 95 percent of the students in the school, formerly known as the Silangan Elementary School (Annex), are Muslims.

The MVIM also made her a regular teacher, handling English and Math in Grades 1 and 2.

But the greater challenge is being an *ustadz*, she admitted. Speaking at the end of her training, she promised to give her best and to promote quality Madrasah education to the new Muslim generation.

"More patience is needed to teach these children the Arabic language," she said. Even if the class was held only once a week, the job was difficult, she admitted.

The Madrasah class is held 7:30 a.m.-12 noon then 1-4:30 p.m.

On the first day of class, on Aug. 27, she was quite dismayed to learn that among the 40 or so Muslim students in her class, only six had either a background on or basic knowledge of the Arabic language, oral or written.

"I expected that since they were Muslims they would have a grasp of the language. But they did not even know how to greet (people in) Arabic," she said.

The teacher resolved that she would be firm in teaching the language because it was an essential part of the religious life of every Muslim.

"The Koran is written in Arabic. The prayers that we recite are in Arabic. So they have to learn the language to understand Islam," Omar said.

She felt privileged to teach young Christians the Madrasah curriculum. She has about six Christian students in her class, she said.

"They were not forced to attend the class," she said. "Their parents expressed willingness to let their children take up the curriculum."

"I am glad there are still broad-minded people like them," she said.

She added that teaching non-Muslims the Madrasah curriculum was her way of bridging the gap between Muslims and Christians.

"We differ in our beliefs and our attire. But we are all still people," the teacher said.

She also realized that becoming an *ustadz* not only meant financial security or personal improvement. It was also a way for her to lead a more meaningful Islamic life.

"When I became an *ustadz*, I felt I was on the right path. It gave me a chance to pay more attention to my [spirituality]," she admitted.

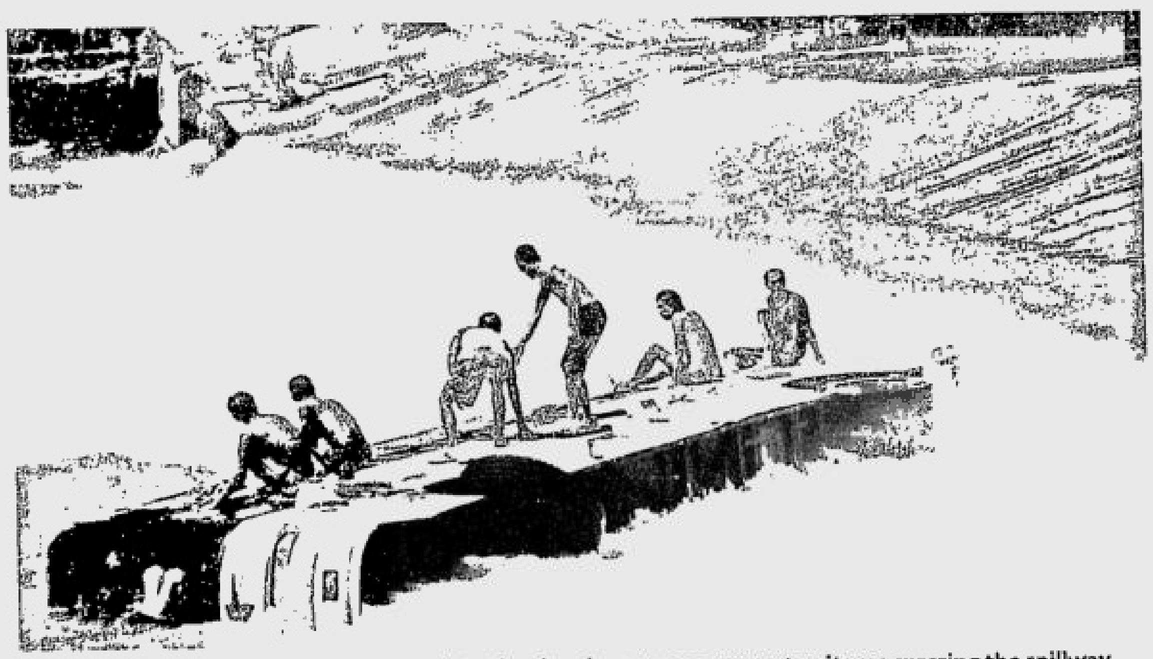
She said she gave herself more time to read the Koran and attend spiritual seminars.

"I could not teach these young children the Islamic values if I myself do not practice these values," she said.

Other job opportunities are opening up for her, luring her away from teaching. But the contentment she feels when she shares her talent and knowledge with young Muslims in her community strengthens her commitment to teaching.

"When I see my students laugh or smile, I am already fulfilled," she added.

Bus packed with students swept into Rizal river; girl missing



THE GREEN Star bus above was swept into the river by a strong current as it was crossing the spillway cutting across the Wawa River in Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal. All but one of 58 students and teachers on board have been reported safe and accounted for. JOAN BONDOC

By Nancy C. Carvajal

A BUS BRINGING HIGH SCHOOL students home from a field trip fell into a river in Rodriguez, Rizal, yesterday morning.

All 58 passengers of the bus, except for one 13-year-old girl, were safely rescued and later sent home.

"All the passengers, including the driver are safe, except for one," said local police chief Insp. Marlon Sapla.

Sapla identified the missing girl as Carol Borromeo, a second-year student of Pasay City South High School, who lived in Parañaque City.

According to the police official, the bus was crossing less than a foot deep of water over a 30-meter long concrete spillway when it was swept into the Wawa River in Barangay San Rafael.

The bus, a chartered Green Star air-conditioned bus, was carrying 56 sophomore students and two teachers, who had just come from a study tour of Avilon Zoo, a private animal sanctuary in the town.

"The driver could have miscalculated the road, because seven other buses before him made it," said San Rafael Chair Zaldy Cruz.

Cruz said the bus was already in the middle of the stretch when witnesses saw it slowly slipping off the road submerged in flowing water. "It went in rear-end first," he said.

The bus then settled on its right side in about one-and-a-half meter deep water, submerging three-fourths of the vehicle.

Cruz, with other barangay officials, were first to arrive at the scene.

"My men had to break the windows so they could pull the students out," the village chair related.

Eight rubber boats with ropes, he said, were immediately dispatched to bring the victims to safety.

Most of the students were treated on site by emergency medical teams, and some were brought to a nearby hospital for treatment of minor cuts and bruises.

All of them were later allowed to go home.

Rodriguez Mayor Pedro Cuerpo, who supervised the rescue operations, expressed surprise at the incident because it was the first time that a vehicle fell into the river under "normal weather conditions."

He said that before the incident, small vehicles like tricycles were safely crossing the river.

Transport groups plan bigger strike

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PINAGKAISANG SAMAHAN NG Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) will be on its own when it goes on strike tomorrow as another group denied it would participate in Monday's transport holiday.

But that is no good news.

The Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators-Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations or Pcdo Acto was deferring participation in tomorrow's strike because it was planning to join a bigger transport stoppage.

Piston president Mar Garvida said on Friday that public utility vehicles under his group and those of Pcdo Acto would not ply their routes tomorrow to protest rising fuel prices and to seek a return to a regulated oil industry, as well as the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Pcdo Acto president Efren de Luna said a "lack of communition" had led them to beg off from tomorrow's strike.

But De Luna said Pcdo Acto and other transport groups were preparing for a bigger protest action that will focus on transport-related issues.

According to him, the other strike will involve organizations of jeepneys, buses, taxis, FXs, tricycles and even pedicabs.

Aside from surging fuel prices, the upcoming protest action will focus on the transport sector's problems with the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and the local government units, said De Luna.

For tomorrow's mass action, the National Capital Region Police Office will be deploying 2,000 of its men to make sure that the strike would be peaceful and that no one would be forced to join it. *With Jo R. Uy*

METROBRIEFS

Manila's own TVRs

WITH its amended traffic code, the Manila government said it would soon start issuing its own traffic violation tickets called Ordinance Violation Receipts (OVR) next month. Manuel Mendoza, Manila traffic bureau chief, said the license of traffic violators will be confiscated and an OVR will be issued and serve as his driver's license for seven days. The license will only be released upon presentation of the OVR and payment of the fines. *Tina G. Santos*

3 weeks for trikers

OPERATORS of tricycles operating illegally in Muntinlupa City have three more weeks to register their units or face sanctions. The Business Permit and License Office (BPLO) said only 103 tricycle operators had registered their units. Previous records showed that there were 482 tricycles illegally plying the city, BPLO assistant head, Elisa Malig said. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

KAILANGANG KUMILOS AGAD!

Sept. 11 rites

A SIMPLE ceremony remembering victims of the terrorist attacks on the United States four years ago will be held in Manila today. City police chief Pedro Bulaong said security measures were in place along Roxas Boulevard and other key places in the city as national and local government officials were expected to grace the occasion. He said policemen would also be deployed at the Baywalk to secure the activity, which will start at 8 a.m. *Tina G. Santos*

Conex '06 kickoff

THE UNITED Architects of the Philippines will have cocktails tomorrow night at Club Filipino to kick off CONEX '06. UAP's convention director Ka Kuen Chua, FUAP, will run the annual exhibit to be held in April next year at the World Trade Center.

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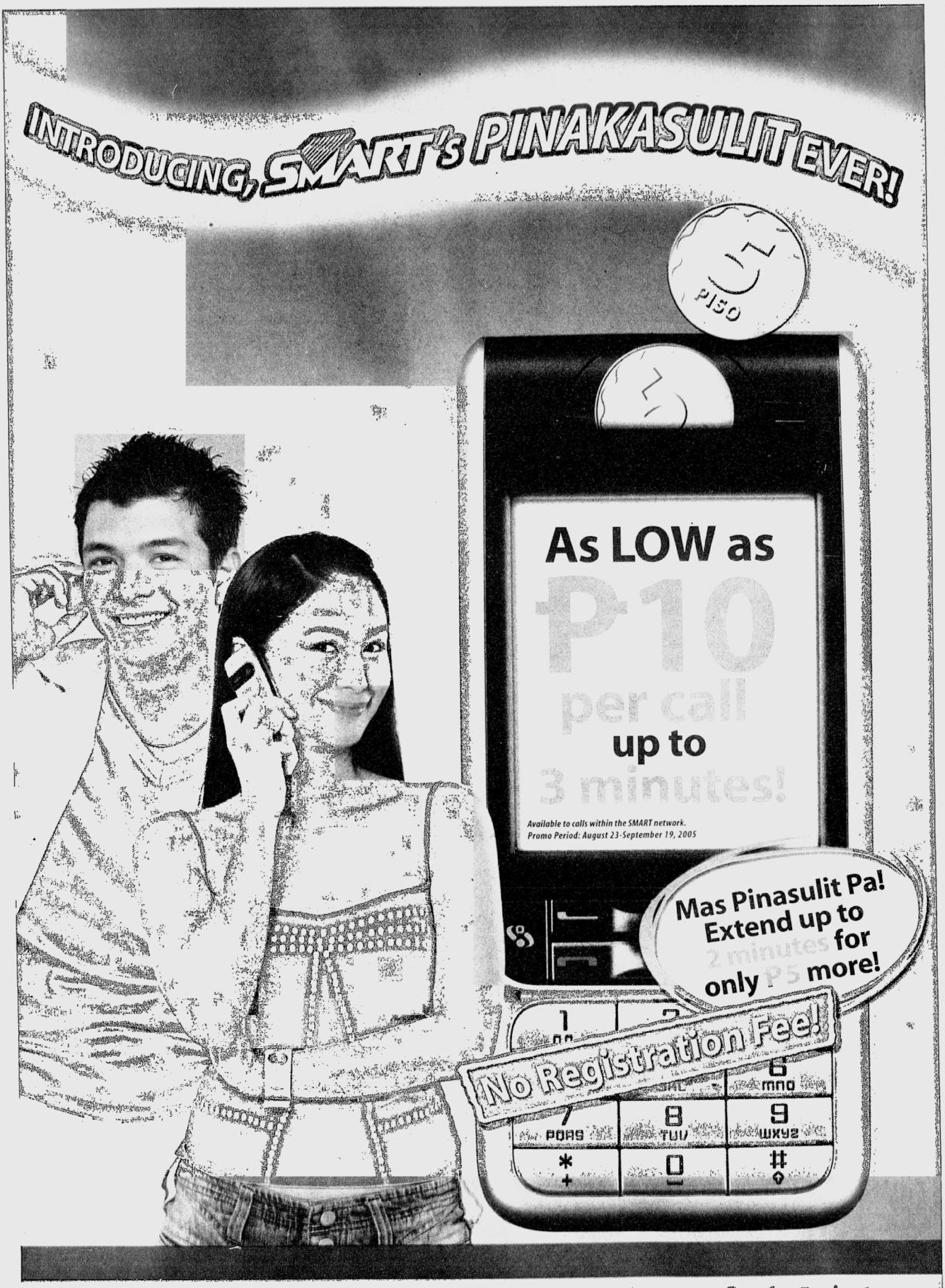
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Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BOXING: Pacquiao vs Velasquez; 10 a.m.; RPN 9 and Solar Sports (r-9 p.m.)—Pacman goes up against a highly experienced foe who hasn't been KO'd in 8 years.
MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Belgian Grand Prix Qualifying; 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (r); Race Day; 7 p.m.; STAR Sports—Can Renault claim another checkered flag?
TENNIS: 2005 US Open; 7 a.m.; Sports Plus—The women's finals goes underway.
BASEBALL: MLB–Angels vs White Sox; 7 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); ESPN—LA takes on Chicago in a battle of AL division leaders.
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Pacquiao battles Velasquez today

FILIPINO BOXING SUPERSTAR Manny Pacquiao, aiming for a multimillion-dollar rematch with Erik Morales, faces Mexican Hector Velasquez today in a 12-round battle for the vacant World Boxing Council International super featherweight title at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Morales himself will be appearing against former Olympian Zahir Raheem in the co-main event of the "Double Trouble" card in another 12-round tiff for the WBC International lightweight tiara.

Both fights will be simulcast today starting at 10 a.m. over Solar Sports and RPN-9. Also to be shown are the fights of Bohol's Rey Bautista and Hawaii-raised Ilocano Brian Viloria against separate opponents.

On the eve of the fight, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she and the nation were praying for Pacquiao's victory.

"You are the inspiration of our youth and a good example of the skills possessed by Filipinos," she said in Filipino.

President Arroyo said the nation believes in Pacquiao's fighting ability and is behind him all the way.

Both Pacquiao and Velasquez came in at an exact 130 lbs during the official weigh-in held yesterday at the Staples Center. Morales came in at 134 while Raheem tipped in at 133.

Pacquiao, wearing a blue-and-yellow cap at the weigh-in, flexed his muscles for the media to see, reminiscent of his post-weigh-in antics during the Morales and Barrera fights.

PACQUIAO/ A24

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Comeback queens shine in US Open

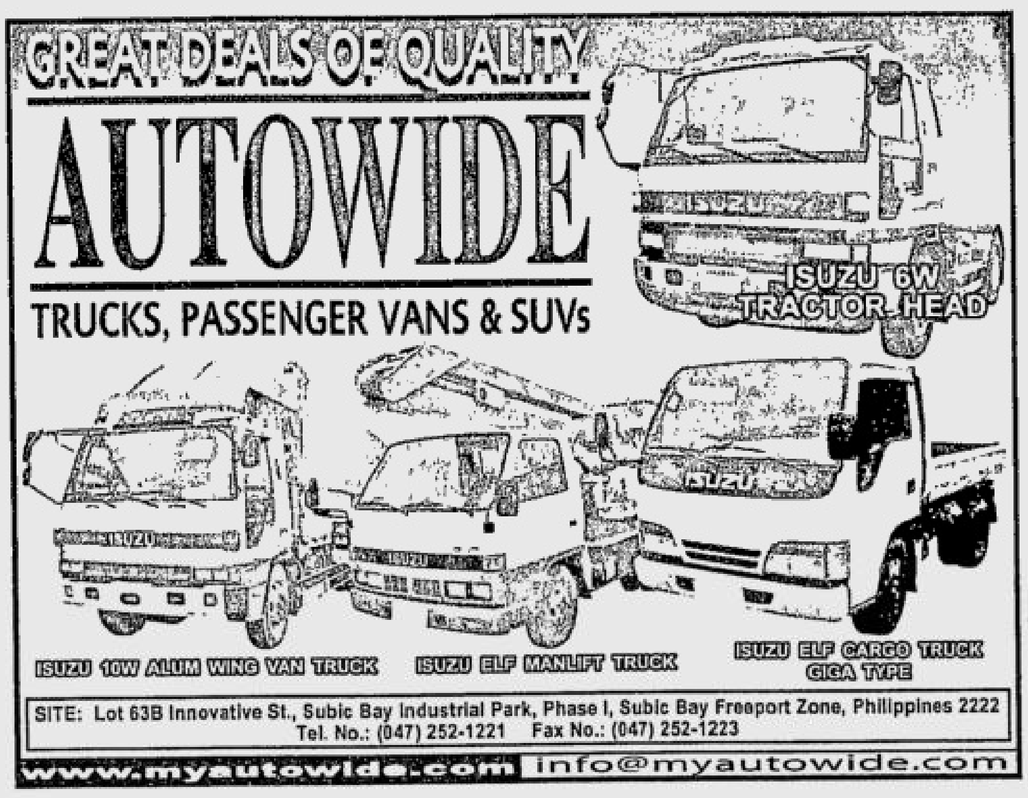
/A26

Boosting spirit and morale

77 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

WHILE preparations for the hosting of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games is now in full swing, the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) has also taken an active role in boosting the spirit and morale of the national athletes.

The PSC Board recently tasked commissioner Leon Montemayor to head the agency's monitoring group and act as the body's ambassador to strengthen the communication line among the more than 800 athletes seeing action in the biennial meet set Nov. 27-Dec. 5.



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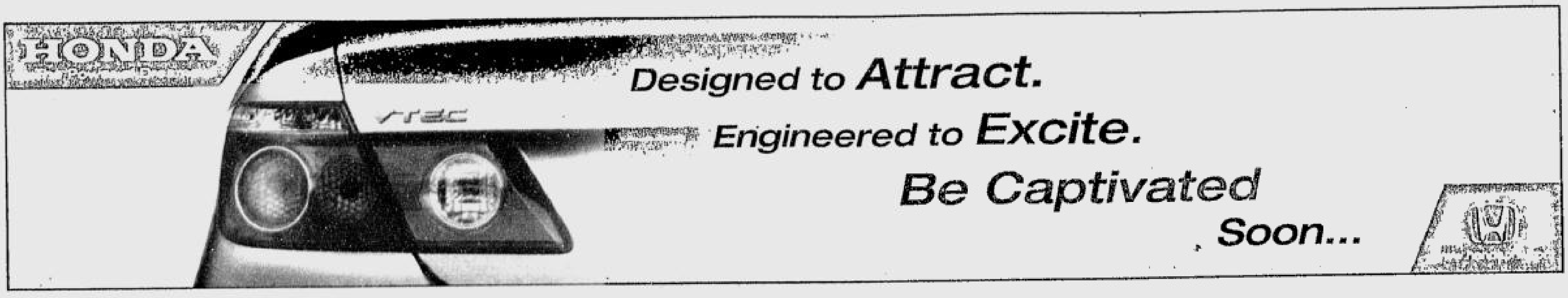

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TALE OF THE TAPE

MANNY Pacquiao (right) and Hector Velasquez flex their muscles during the official weigh-in yesterday. AP

VELASQUEZ		PACQUIAO
42-10-2, 31 KO's	Record	39-3-2, 31 KO's
55	Total Fights	44
56.4	KO Percentage	68.2
11 yrs, 9 mos	Career Span	10 yrs, 8 mos
30	Age	26
5'7"	Height	5'6 1/2"
67"	Reach	67"
Orthodox	Stance	Southpaw
Ricardo Torres	Trainer	Freddie Roach
4	Champions Fought	6
1-3, 0 KO's	Record vs Champs	4-1-1, 4KO's

Pacquiao battles Velasquez today

From page A23

Viloria (17-0 11KOs) is seeking the WBC light flyweight crown of Eric Ortiz of Mexico (34-4-1 16KOs). Viloria and Ortiz both weighed in at the regulatory limit of 108 lbs.

Bautista will fight Felix Murilo of Colombia.

For Pacquiao, today's fight will be his meal ticket to a rich pay-per-view rematch with Morales on Jan. 21, which guarantees him a whooping $6 million purse, the biggest for any Filipino athlete in history.

Experts predict a win for Pacquiao to keep him on track of avenging his unanimous decision loss to Morales last March.

The southpaw from General Santos City, who claims being in tip-top shape following a rigorous one-month training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, is up against a less formidable fighter with a 42-10-2 win-loss-draw record.

The feeling is that Pacquiao (39-3-2) must utilize his speed to befuddle the slower Velasquez and go for an early knockout since his stamina is suspect due to his scrambling preparation.

The lineup of officials for the bout does not augur well for the Filipino icon, however, with one of the judges--Alejandro Rochin-- being a Mexican like Velasquez. The other two judges are Americans Marty Sammon and Pat Russell. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Tepora-Bongon showdown featured in Ringside boxing

PING TEPURA OF MINDANAO and Romel Bongon of Manila battle over eight rounds in the 115-lbs division in today's featured episode of Ginebra San Miguel's Ringside TV Boxing from 3-4 p.m. on ABC-5.

Presented by Galorde Enterprises Inc., in cooperation with ABC-5 and backed by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), the Tepura-Bongon clash brings out their best in every round.

The fight will be carried through Mabuhay Channel and shown in parts of the United States, Canada and Japan.

No waltzing now, Pacman must rock

By Recah Trinidad

COMMENTARY

THE FIRST TIME I ASKED FREDDIE roach about Manny Pacquiao's readiness for a fight, the famous American trainer mumbled, "Hundred percent, he's fine, he's perfectly ready."

He said Pacman was quite ready to rock.

This was last December, a day before Pacquiao clashed with a Thai journeyman with the electrifying name of Fahsan 3-K Battery in Taguig City.

Pacquiao, it would turn out, was only half ready.

He was, indeed, strong and ferocious. He would, in fact, stop the Thai in the fifth round.

But, mind you, Pacquiao started to run out of breath at the end of the third round, a sordid fact that was openly lamented by his Puerto Rican cutman Lenny de Jesus.

* * *

Of course, Roach was not lying when he made that pre-fight assessment.

Roach must've reported what he felt, even if he had to cram with Pacquiao for that bout.

But here lies the problem: Roach had been saying exactly the same thing for Pacquiao's all-important outing against a Mexican dreamer by the name of Hector Velasquez in Los Angeles, California, today.

Roach again said Pacquiao was, repeat, a hundred percent ready.

The similarity was painfully intriguing: Just like against the Thai, Pacquiao also had to cram after he was left with only a month to prepare for Velasquez.

* * *

Was Roach lying this time out?

Well, we may not even know if he had floated a bluff.

If Velasquez comes in party-ready as labeled, Pacquiao would jump in and feast on him.

He would be dancing Manny's favorite rock number, playing into his turf.

The fight could be over in five rounds or less, with the stronger rocker standing on his feet.

Velasquez swore he would not take a single step back the moment the confrontation starts.

But sound boxing sense decrees Velasquez should be spending the early rounds moving out of Pacquiao's ax-like left shots.

With his edge in conditioning, an early waltz would help greatly in enhancing the Mexican's chance of scoring a monumental upset.

* * *

Anyway, based on the mental make-up and the patented styles of these two ring warriors, we would be in for a bar brawl.

No slow drag, they should be rocking all night.

But, who knows? Maybe Velasquez had decided to engage in a pre-fight psywar.

And didn't Fred Roach himself make a doubtful claim they should be able to take out Velasquez in the latter rounds?

Velasquez was described as stubborn, durable and strong, having scored four knockouts in his last five victories.

Of course, it would be to Pacquiao's advantage if the fight ends in the first half.

* * *

Look, if the 12-round bout goes past six rounds, Pacquiao could next run out of gas and end up making a drowning return tour of the long, late-nights he had been through in his four-and-a-half month lay-off.

Velasquez? If he shuns an early waltz and decides to squander his edge in conditioning by ripping at Pacquiao outright, he would be entering a burning house.

He could be rock-roasted like willing pork chop.

Or did Velasquez see another chink in the Pacquiao armor?

Castañares eyes revenge versus Yamamoto

WORLD BOXING FOUNDATION JUnior welter king Dindo "Diesel" Castanares collides with Japanese Daigoro Yamamoto today in a 10-round non-title rematch at the IMP Hall in Osaka, Japan.

This will be a grudge rematch of their first encounter three years ago, before Castanares had won the WBF world title.

"He's better prepared this time compared to their first meeting," said Cebuano boxing patron Tony L. Aldeguer, who manages Castanares, in an interview yesterday.

To prepare for Yamamoto, Castanares had been sparring against big boys at the famed ALA Gym, logging in close to 100 rounds under the watchful eyes of trainer Jeremiah Quijano.

"I feel that I have an unfinished business with him. I'm going to put closure to this," Castañares said.

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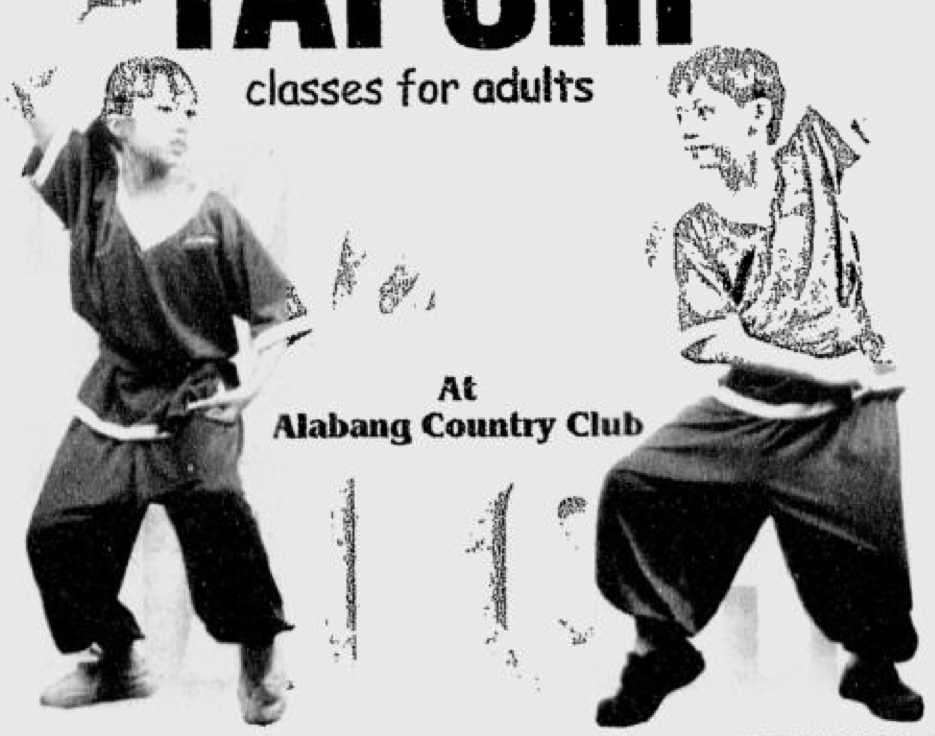

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Warriors oust Maroons; NU shades UST

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11:30 a.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs La Salle (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs Ateneo (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH ROOKIE BONBON CUSTODIO delivering another terrific offensive game, the University of the East Warriors crushed the semifinal hopes of the University of the Philippines Maroons with a 65-61 triumph in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Custodio, a transferee from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, shot 16 points, while rookie Jorel Cañizares backed him up with 12 points and eight rebounds.

The Warriors reclaimed solo second with a 10-3 slate, a day after the UAAP board ordered a replay of the second-round match between UE and the La Salle Archers.

The other semifinalists are the Far Eastern U Tamaraws (11-1), the Ateneo Eagles (9-3) and the La Salle Archers (7-4).

The Maroons bowed out at fifth with a 6-8 record.

Earlier, rookie Jonathan Jahnke nailed a running shot as the National U Bulldogs slipped past the University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 74-73, for their first win of the season.

Howard Flor led with 15 markers, while Edwin Asoro posted 14 points and 14 rebounds for NU.

The scores:
Second Game (Srs)
UE 65—Custodio 16, Cañizares 12, Raymundo 6, Martinez 6, Espiritu 6, Borboran 6, Arellano 5, Palaganas 4, Saguindel 2, Labagala 2, Lapeña 0, Gregorio 0.
UP 61—Gavino 16, Cruz 14, Ferrer 12, Vainio 8, David 7, Santos 4, Sorongon 0, Quebral 0, Padolina 0, Epres 0, Doruelo 0, Buyco 0, Bienvenida 0.
Quarters: 21-15, 36-26, 52-41, 65-61

FUTURE STAR Matthew, 5, of the Coach E Basketball School managed by former PBA stars Eric Altamirano and Ronnie Magsanoc, practices his moves in a Spalding micro mini backboard available at all Proline Sports Center branches. The backboards feature NBA team logos and NBA super-stars with the flag of their country of origin.

Gen-San pugs root for Manny

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—THE HEAD OF THE amateur boxing group here said that ring idol Manny Pacquiao would be able to demolish Hector Velasquez during their fight in Los Angeles, California today.

Rey Golingan, local chair of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines-Gensan chapter, said that "barring any accident, I am confident Manny will win. The fight would not last long," Golingan, who served as Pacquiao's boss during his days as amateur boxer here, said.

Golingan came up with the prediction, even if he admitted that stamina could be one possible hindrance to Pacquiao's victory over Velasquez.

He said Pacquiao came from a long vacation from the gym after his loss to Mexican boxer Erik Morales in March.

"He was so busy with so many things," Golingan said. "He only trained for a month."

Ideally, he said a boxer needs at least 45 days of training in preparation for a fight because less than that would be cramming.

Manny went back to training only last August.

Golingan said he was hoping that Manny's guts and determination would compensate for his lack of adequate training.

"Manny was one of my wards during his amateur days. He was not a promising fighter then. But unlike his peers, he had the guts, focus and determination," he said.

Golingan said Pacquiao should really try his best to win or he would become a laughing stock to both Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera.

"If he is defeated in this fight, he would be snubbed both by Barrera and Morales," he said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Pacquiao to win in 5, maybe even less

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NO WAY MANNY PACQUIAO will lose to Hector Velasquez today, Sunday (Saturday in Los Angeles). Maybe, if Pacquiao, a southpaw, fights with his left hand tied to the ropes, he will.

Pacquiao is world-class, Velasquez a patsy.

Pacquiao is a three-time world champion and Velasquez a nondescript.

At 26, Pacquiao, if he's in shape, is at his mightiest.

At 30, Velasquez, even if he's also in shape, is weakest at the jaw, having lost 10 times already to boxers of lesser stature. (Pacquiao has lost 3.)

Against three Mexicans the last couple of years, Pacquiao was 1-1-1. Meaning, 1 win, 1 draw, 1 loss for Pacquiao against the three.

Against his last five opponents, Velasquez was 5-0, four of which, I was told, were by knockout. Impressive, huh?

But read on.

Of the three Mexicans Pacquiao had faced, all three fit the profile of being among the greatest boxers, not only at the moment, but, possibly, of all time.

Of the five boxers Velasquez had faced, all five fit the profile of first-degree cousins of Velasquez.

Barrera, Marquez and Morales. Legends in their own right. The world even knows them by their monikers, like GMA knows Garci like the back of her hand.

Pacquiao against Barrera, Pacquiao won by knockout.

Pacquiao against Marquez, Pacquiao settled for a draw but not after decking the Mexican three times in the first round.

Pacquiao against Morales, Pacquiao lost on points but not after putting up a gallant stand even after he suffered an ugly cut on the eyebrow in the fifth.

Velasquez against the five he had previously beaten, well, he beat them, period.

But as the five were as unknown as Velasquez, there's not much to talk about regarding how their fights went. He beat them, period.

Velasquez, before he could get into today's fight, was as unknown to the world as Cooligak, the man who invented kalit. Kalit is a game involving cashew nuts and played in Tococ Barikir near the slopes of Mt. Mayo on the Caraballo ranges of Zambales. But don't bother knowing about the mechanics of kalit. It's as complex a game as cricket.

So, to continue, since Velasquez is Mr. Nobody, he gets no spotlight, special treatment if you will, until he beats Pacquiao a.k.a. Mr. Celebrity.

Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer, personally picked Velasquez from a list of journeymen in need of beer money more than fame. Roach saw in Velasquez a picture-perfect target for Pacquiao's missiles: Velasquez hates dancing and stands there like a Meralco post.

Roach has done his job. It's up to Pacquiao now to wrap it up neatly so that American-made Team Pacquiao could move on spic-and-span to the real business at hand: Erik Morales in January.

You know how fickle the boxing crowd is, not to mention business giants like HBO, which co-promotes Pacquiao fights.

You are Mr. Celebrity and you lose to Mr. Nobody, that's bad for the business, a no-no to Shelly Finkel, Pacquiao's new American manager.

You know your boxing if you also say there's no way Pacquiao will lose this fight.

Did I hear it right that Pacquiao will win within five rounds, maybe even within three?

You bet.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Dennis Uy, the inventor of the country's Pay Per View technology, will be happy to host some friends again today at his Spencer's Restaurant in Angeles City for the Pacquiao fight. Here's to you, Dennis!... Pepito "Apeng" Raposas, my classmate from Grade 1 to fourth year high school, died last Friday. A prayer for his soul will be greatly appreciated..

* * *

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EUROPEANS Catriona Matthew (left) of Scotland and Annika Sorenstam of Sweden celebrate on the 10th hole during their Four Ball match in the 2005 Solheim Cup. AFP

SOLHEIM CUP

Sorenstam, Davis give Europe first-day edge

CARMEL, INDIANA—LAURA DAVIES WAS her usual self in the Solheim Cup, driving long and winning easily. Annika Sorenstam had a bigger challenge.

The two biggest winners in Solheim Cup history, Sorenstam and Davies each won two team matches Friday to help Europe take a 5-3 lead over the United States after the first day of the three-day event at Crooked Stick.

"It's as good as we could have hoped for," Davies said. "A two-point lead is fantastic."

Overcoming front-nine struggles in both of her matches, Sorenstam teamed with Suzann Pettersen to beat Michele Redman and Laura Diaz, 1-up, in their morning alternate-shot match and combined with Catriona Matthew to top Pat Hurst and Wendy Ward, 2 and 1, in afternoon best-ball play.

"It was a very, very exciting day, looking at the scoreboard," Sorenstam said. "There was a lot of up and down, obviously. But we were persistent. We kept grinding and grinding and grinding."

Davies and Maria Hjorth beat Cristie Kerr and Natalie Gulbis, 2 and 1, in the morning, and the longtime English star teamed with Pettersen to hold off Paula Creamer and Juli Inkster, 4 and 3, in the afternoon.

"Laura Davies is playing great, and it's pretty hard when you run into a steamroller like that," US captain Nancy Lopez said.

Four holes down with six to play in the morning match, Sorenstam jump-started an incredible charge with a nearly perfect 9-iron on the 138-meter (152-yard), par-3 13th. The ball rolled up to the cup and nearly dropped for an ace.

Before the shot, Sorenstam gave Pettersen a brief pep talk.

"We stood at the tee and I told Suzann, 'We can turn this around and be 1-up,'" Sorenstam said. "Suzann said, 'No, we could be 2-up.' I said, 'Yeah, you're right.'"

Sorenstam and Pettersen won five straight holes and halved the 18th to give Europe its most improbable victory. Two other European teams—Sophie Gustafson and Trish Johnson, and Matthew and Carin Koch—also rallied to earn half-points in the morning.

In the afternoon match, Matthew and Sorenstam were 2-down to Hurst and Ward after eight holes. Sorenstam responded with birdies at Nos. 9, 10 and 12 to take control.

"I think when you're ahead, like the Americans were, it's a good feeling, chasing in a way, and knowing you have those hard finishing holes," said European captain Catrin Nilsmark, trying to lead Europe to its first victory in the United States after directing the winning team in 2003 in Sweden.

Hurst and Christina Kim were 3-up after 14 holes in their morning match, but Gustafson and Johnson won Nos. 15, 16 and 17 to tie the match.

Beth Daniel and the 19-year-old Creamer, the first rookie to play for the Americans, had a 2-up lead after 14 holes in their morning match before Koch and Matthew won 15 and 17 to earn another half-point. *AP*

Calcavecchia fires a 67, takes five-shot cushion

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA—MARK Calcavecchia birdied three straight holes on the front side, then used a big drive to set up a birdie at 18 for a 3-under-par 67 and a five-shot lead Friday after the second round of the Canadian Open.

Calcavecchia, the first-round co-leader with a 65, separated himself from the field by again avoiding most of the trouble on the tight Shaughnessy Golf and Country Club course. His drives consistently found the narrow fairways and his short game was solid.

At 8-under 132 through 36 holes, Calcavecchia matched his best start in the Canadian Open. He also was 8-under in the 1989 tournament at Glen Abbey, where he went on to finish in a tie for second.

First round co-leader Lucas Glover shot a 72 and was alone in second. Carlos Franco (70), Jerry Kelly (66) and Jesper Parnevik (72) were another shot back at 138.

On a day when par was a good score, Calcavecchia cruised through his morning round, hitting 10 of 14 fairways and 11 of 18 greens in regulation.

Calcavecchia, winless since the 2001 Phoenix Open, had five birdies and two bogeys in his morning round. He closed the front side with birdies at Nos. 7, 8 and 9. He made putts of 20 feet at 7 and 9 and hit a 4-iron within 6 feet at the par-3 eighth.

He started the day with a bogey at No. 1, where he "chunked" a 5-iron on his second shot and missed the green.

"I actually felt too relaxed," Calcavecchia said. "I hit an awful iron into the first hole, then another terrible iron into 2 and I thought for a minute I might be in trouble."

Defending champion Vijay Singh shot 66 to match the best score of the day. He started the day tied for 71st place after an opening 73. He's at 1-under going into the weekend and in a tie for sixth.

"The key was hitting more fairways, and when you hit more fairways you get chances for birdies," Singh said. "You can't make birdies from the rough here."

Mike Weir, the Canadian who lost to Singh in a playoff at Glen Abbey last year, missed the cut with a second-round 75. Weir, the 2003 US Masters champ, sprayed shots all over the course as his season-long slump—he's missed the cut in seven of the last 12 tournaments—continued.

Calcavecchia got his round going with a 5-iron to within 2 feet on the third hole.

"After that, I was fine," he said. "I really got into the round and played great from the third hole to the 11th." *AP*

Agassi steals semifinal spot

NEW YORK—ALTHOUGH ROGER Federer is the defending champion and No. 1 seed, most eyes will be on Andre Agassi in the US Open semifinals.

Agassi, 35, is the senior citizen among Saturday's four semifinalists. He's 13 years older than his opponent, fellow American Robby Ginepri, and 11 years older than Federer and Lleyton Hewitt, who will play each other in a repeat of last year's final.

Only Ginepri is an unfamiliar face at this stage of the Open, with Agassi winning the title here in 1994 and 1999, Hewitt winning in 2001, and Federer taking last year's trophy.

The seventh-seeded Agassi has won eight career Grand Slam titles, and if he's able to usher Ginepri aside as he's done in their three previous meetings, he will be playing in his 15th career Grand Slam final.

That would make him the oldest Grand Slam finalist since 39-year-old Ken Rosewall lost the 1974 US Open to Jimmy Connors.

The appearance of Agassi in the semifinal is impressive considering that a sciatic nerve injury in his back crippled him in the first round of the French Open, and forced him to skip Wimbledon. He came back in July, winning his 60th career title at his first summer stop in Los Angeles.

"I always worry about health—is everything holding up?" Agassi said Thursday, a day after his five-set quarterfinal win over James Blake. "Mentally, it's hard to get fatigued with the love I've been shown here.

"I've gotten through two five-setters, and feel surprisingly good. It's a sprint now around the turn and down the homestretch. I'll be in position to give it a good run."

Comeback queens

Clijsters, Pierce knock off Russian ri

PIERCE: Happy to play anybody right now. AFP

NEW YORK—THE KIM Clijsters who faces Mary Pierce for the US Open title isn't the same Kim Clijsters who lost three Grand Slam finals in an eight-month span two years ago.

Not even close.

"That was before my injury. I've realized a lot more how much I missed tennis," Clijsters said Friday after outlasting No. 1 Maria Sharapova to make her first major final since the 2004 Australian Open.

"That's the whole completely different attitude that I have now. No matter what I do, I'm going to go for it because it could be over. If I get another wrist injury, if I have anything else, my career could be over very soon.

"That's why I want to go out there and just enjoy every shot that I can hit."

Top of her game

Clijsters was at the top of her game in 2003, reaching the final in 15 of the 21 tournaments she played, and winning a record nine titles, including the season-ending championship.

For as dominant she was, though, she couldn't win the Big One—any of the four in the Grand Slam.

She got to the finals at the French and US opens in 2003, and the Australian in 2004. All three times, she lost to fellow Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne.

"She just played great tennis," said Clijsters, who also lost the 2001 French
Open final to Jenni
think I played my
those matches.
nothing to do with
Not after what
last year.

Spectator

Clijsters had sur
remove a cyst on
missed the last thr
as well as this yea
She was at the US
was as a spectator.
watched former fi
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Clijsters did co
vengeance.
She's won six ti
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at 134 on March 6.
the US Open serie
ford, Los Angeles a
dropping a set.
"She's done unb
mer, winning so m
Pierce said. "She
competitor. She's
court. She's just
around. She's def
tough to beat."
But Pierce has
of her own. At 3
oldest women o
removed from he
tle and 10 from h

Dementieva cries foul; Sharap

DEMENTIEVA: Unfair tactics. REUTERS

NEW YORK—RUSSIAN TEENAGER Maria Sharapova said she was exhausted by her fight-back to force a third set in her loss to Kim Clijsters in Friday's US Open semifinals and must improve her physical conditioning to reach her tennis peak.

"I kind of gave it all I had in the tiebreaker," the top-seeded Russian said after her 6-2 6-7 6-3 defeat. "Then the third, I kind of ran out of gas.

"At that point it's pretty tough because physically I still have to get a lot better and I have to play these three-setters. The points are going to go on and on and on.

"This is not something that's going to happen overnight.

I'm only 18 and this is going to take time. My body is still growing and I'm still adjusting to my own body."

The 18-year-old Sharapova, who exploded on the tennis scene with her 2004 Wimbledon victory at age 17, will reassume the number one ranking after the Open. Still, she recognizes the need to get fitter.

"When the points started getting longer and longer, I felt that she had the advantage," Sharapova said of fourth-seeded Belgian Clijsters, 22.

"She was able to execute them well. I did have opportunities, going into the net, and she came up with great shots," added the Russian, who fought off five match points in the last game of the second set to force a tiebreaker.

Asked to describe Clijsters, Sharapova said, "Great athleticism. She moves amazingly, amazingly. That's a big plus in tennis."

Sharapova said her best is yet to come.

"When the time comes, the time's right, then it will happen. It takes a lot of work and I'm willing to go back on the practice court and in the gym, whatever I need to do, and work hard to win the grand slams."

MBL CHAMPS: Harbour Centre-San Juan celebrates after capturing the Millennium Basketball league-San Juan Invitational cup Basketball tournament by beating Mediatrixx Telecom, 80-71, in their best-of-three series at the San Juan gym. Harbour Centre-San Juan managed by Mayor JV Ejercito and Mikee Romero, barked on the Heroics of La Salle standout JErwin Gaco who topscored with 25 points. The 6'3 Gaco was voted as the league MVP. MBL Chair Alex Wang and Commissioner George Palaran awarded the trophy.

RP skaters grab 2nd place

THE SM PHILIPPINE ICE SKATING TEAM placed second out of 118 teams in the prestigious Ice Skating Institute (ISI) World Recreational Team Championships 2005 held recently in California.

The team, which is composed of 57 skaters from the SM Megamall and SM Southmall Ice Skating rinks, gathered 151 gold, 107 silver and 48 bronze medals. The team's total of 1,196 points gave them second place among 118 teams from USA, Mexico and other Asian countries like Hong Konng, Malaysia and Singapore.

The US-based Pasadena Ice Skating Rink bagged the championship with a total of 1,510 points and Aliso Viejo Ice Palace earned 1,054 points for the third slot.

Leading the Filipinos was Ana Gabriel Transporte, a 13-year-old Colegio de Santa Rosa student who won eight gold medals and a silver.

"I felt nervous—this being my first time to compete abroad, I was able to pull through with grace and confidence with the support of my teammates, coaches and parents," Transporte said.

Ysabel Victoria Vitangcol, on the other hand, won six golds and two silvers. Ysabel started skating at 6, and says she doesn't remember "a time I didn't have my skates on."

"Winning is a matter of bringing out the best in you," says Carmen Naomi Damian, who contributed six golds and two bronzes. "With great passion and by putting your heart to what you are doing, you can really achieve you dreams."

Katherine Mae Anonuevos, a 14-year-old student at St. Theresa's College, won 4 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze medals.

Other top skaters included John Ross Solanzo, Patricia Zarate, John Carlo Medina, Paulina Michelle Ong, Angelica Transporte, Bien Patrick Bergonia and Danica Leslie Icaron.

Very much part of the team is Jonnel Enorme, a 23-year-old computer graduate of STI College was born with cerebral palsy, an ailment that causes paralysis and the inability to control body movements due to a brain injury. Despite his situation, Jonnel's spirit has made it possible for him to achieve his dreams.

TOP DOG: Jody Coseteng adds another to his list
flag in another sweep of the fourth leg of the 2005
Championship series held recently at the Batang.
legs to run, Coseteng has compiled a total of 107
fourth straight championship in the series sanctio
Association of the Philippines. Coseteng will suit
of Ginebra San Miguel Inc. for the Sept. 10-11 fift
the 2.8-km BRC layout opposite some of the cour

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light from top seed Federer

Ginepri, 22, who spent a lot of physical and emotional energy in three successive five-set matches to reach the semifinal, didn't hesitate to pay homage to Agassi ahead of their semifinal.

"He's the king," said Ginepri, who won his second career title at Indianapolis in July. "He's done so much for the game. He's been inspirational to so many people. I've loved watching him growing up and play the game.

"Hopefully this won't be his last run here, but I wouldn't mind to be the one to take him out from the Open."

If the 46th-ranked Ginepri upsets Agassi, he will become the lowest ranked US Open finalist since rankings began in 1973.

Federer, who won his third consecutive Wimbledon title in July, has beaten Hewitt in their last eight meetings dating back to a fourth-round encounter at the 2004 Australian Open.

Federer knows that he continually frustrates the third-seeded Hewitt, but suggested it would be inadvisable for the Australian to try to change his style in hopes of beating him.

"He could, you know. But then again, he could even run into the knife more brutally," Federer said, laughing.

"I don't think we can afford to change our games just because of a particular opponent you play," added Federer, who has won five of the last nine Grand Slams. "He's good enough with his base to beat me on a day when I'm not on.

"Maybe now that he's a married man and getting a baby, maybe that's going to help him to be a little bit more relaxed and maybe it's not everything just to beat me." *AP*

s shine in US Open

vals, arrange showdown for crown

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at the Australian Open.

She reached the French final earlier this summer, only to be routed by Henin-Hardenne. Since then, though, she's won a title, reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon and made a surprising run at the Open. She knocked off Henin-Hardenne and third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo, then rallied to beat last year's runner-up, Elena Dementieva, in the semifinals Friday.

Controversial timeout

Pierce needed a controversial 12-minute injury timeout after losing the first set. But she planned to get treatment, and said she'd be fine for Saturday night's final against Clijsters, who has won their only two previous meetings.

"I'm just happy to play anybody right now," Pierce said.

Clijsters has already said she plans to retire in two years, whether she wins a major or not. Though she's only 22, her body feels much older.

"The way I walk around, everything is hurting," Clijsters said. "My ankles, my wrists—everything is sore and making a lot of noise."

But the self-imposed retirement date isn't putting any added pressure on her.

"It's nice to have that goal," she said. "I'm going to try and give everything I can for the next two years." *AP*

CLIJSTERS: Everything is sore and making a lot of noise. REUTERS

ova says she still lacks strength

Meanwhile, Elena Dementieva accused Mary Pierce of using unfair tactics in their semifinal at the US Open on Friday, which the Frenchwoman won in three sets.

Pierce took back-to-back injury timeouts lasting 12 minutes after losing the first set and as a rattled Dementieva lost her way, Pierce lifted her game to win, 3-6 6-2 6-2.

"You can change the game by winning unbelievable points or by changing the rhythm, that's the fair point," Dementieva said.

"But by taking 12 minutes timeout, I don't think it was a fair play.

"Do I think she had something (injury), I don't think so.

But she could do it by the rules and she did it.

"If that's the only way she can beat me, I mean that's up to her."

Dementieva had dominated the first set before Pierce called the trainer, and the Russian was forced to wait as the 12th seed had extended treatment, reportedly for injuries to her right thigh and to her back.

When the match resumed, Pierce showed no signs of impaired movement, running down everything and lifting her game to become the first Frenchwoman to reach the US Open final.

Dementieva said she knew that Pierce would use everything she could to win the match.

"That's the way she wins," the Russian said.

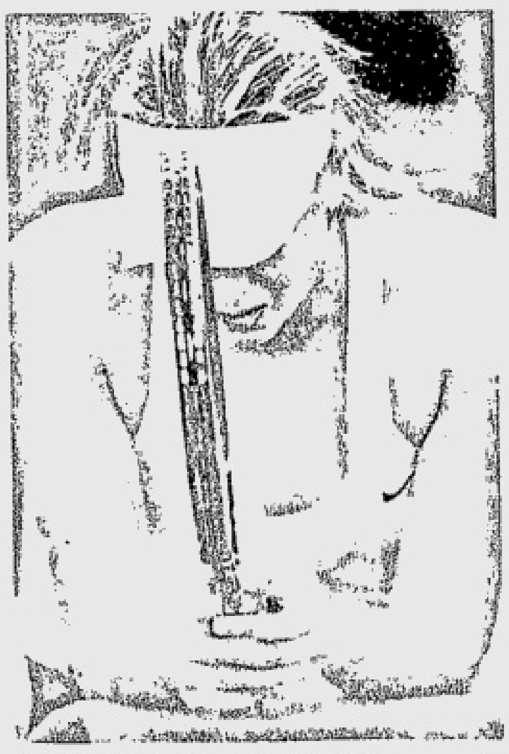
"That's the kind of player she is. She's trying to use everything, just to take advantage of some little distraction."

Dementieva said she would not use such tactics herself.

"I don't need it," she said.

"When I go on court, if I have something, I can tape it before the match.

"I really want to be just a better player, not to put any distraction or these kind of little things to distract the game of my opponent." *Reuters*


SHARAPOVA: Time to hit the gym. AFP

Battle of the Courts: Anvil, Alabang gain quarterfinal tickets

ANVIL BADMINTON CENTER AND ALAbang Country Club stayed on course toward forging a title rematch when they swept their two elimination matches yesterday to advance to the quarterfinals of the South leg of the Battle of the Courts: National Interclub Badminton Cup Year 2 at the Alabang Racquet Club.

Anvil cruised to victories over Flick Sports Center and Camp Badminton Club to top Group 1 while Alabang survived Matchplay Badminton Center to rule Group 4 in the tourney co-presented by Smart: Simply Amazing, INQUIRER Badminton and Mizuno.

Alabang Racquet Club won a three-team tiebreak for the No. 1 spot in Group 2 and South Smash emerged as a title contender with two wins in Group 3.

The No. 1 teams from each group will face the No. 2 qualifiers on a gruelling day today starting at 9 a.m. when the knockout rounds of the event also backed by Citibank On-Line, Unilever, Wilson as the official shuttlecock and Cebu Pacific as the official carrier will be played.

Anvil takes on Group 3 No. 2 Leap 'N Smash, Alabang Racquet Club collides with Group 4 No. 2 Matchplay, Alabang Country Club battles Group 2 second qualifier Speed and South Smash squares off with Group 1 No. 2 Flick.

The other supporters are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva and Powerade, Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3 are the official media partners.

Quarterfinal round winners advance to the semifinals set at 11:30 with the finals scheduled at 2 p.m.

Anvil topped last year's south leg but not after Alabang decided not to play the final due to a prior commitment of its players. The two finalists are already assured of slots to the finals.

The south leg is the biggest so far in the elimination series coming after the previous ones topped by Valle Verde and Myan's (East leg), The Zone and Powersmash (Central leg), Portside (Cebu) and Smash Ville Fitness Center (Davao).

All the members of the eventual national champion will be sent to an all-expense paid holiday to Hong Kong Disneyland.

Failing to advance were Camp Badminton, Raq4Cock, The Palms Country Club and Smash 'N Fun. Raq4Cock actually wound up in a three-way tie for the two slots in Group 2 with ARC and Speed but lost out in the tiebreak.

After Raq4Cock had scored two victories over ARC in the day's final match, their mixed doubles tandem suffered a decisive loss which led to their elimination.

UCI backs Lance, blasts French daily, dope body

GENEVA—CYCLING'S GOVERNING BODY (UCI) said Friday it had received no evidence of doping by Lance Armstrong and criticized world doping authorities and a French sports newspaper for making allegations against the seven-time Tour de France champion.

"The UCI has not to date received any official information or document" from anti-doping authorities or the laboratory reportedly involved in the testing of urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France, the cycling federation said.

Allegations that EPO was found in Armstrong's 1999 urine samples were first reported by the French sports daily L'Equipe last month.

Armstrong has angrily denied the charges, saying he was the victim of a "witch hunt." He questioned the validity of testing samples frozen six years ago, and how the samples were handled.

"I'm pleased the UCI is investigating this entire matter thoroughly because any professional investigation will reveal that the allegations made by a French sports tabloid have no basis because I never used any performance-enhancing drugs," Armstrong said in a statement.

UCI said it was still gathering information and had asked the World Anti-Doping Agency and the French laboratory for more background. It also wanted to know who commissioned the research and who agreed to make it public.

"How could this be done without the riders' consent?" the UCI said.

It also asked Wada to say if it allowed the results to be disseminated, which UCI says is a "breach of Wada's antidoping code."

"We have substantial concerns about the impact of this matter on the integrity of the overall drug testing regime of the Olympic movement, and in particular the questions it raises over the trustworthiness of some of the sports and political authorities active in the antidoping fight," the UCI said.

UCI president Hein Verbruggen has asked for harsh sanctions against dopers and suggested Armstrong should face sanctions if he were shown to be guilty.

He also told Friday's Le Figaro that Armstrong had proposed before the Tour that all of his urine samples be kept for tests over the next 10 years.

UCI singled out Wada president Dick Pound for making "public statements about the likely guilt of an athlete on the basis of a newspaper article and without all the facts being known."

It also criticized the article in L'Equipe as "targeting a particular athlete." *AP*

Alonso sets Belgian Grand Prix's fastest practice time

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, BELGIUM—FERnando Alonso set the fastest time in Saturday's practice for the Belgian Grand Prix ahead of Kimi Raikkonen, the only driver who can prevent the Spaniard from becoming Formula One's youngest champion.

On a dry track, Alonso was quickest in the fourth and final practice session despite claiming he was underdog for Sunday's race because his Renault was slower than Raikkonen's McLaren-Mercedes.

Raikkonen must finish within four points of Alonso to prevent the 24-year-old winning the world title on Sunday. In practice, Raikkonen needs a big victory over Alonso to keep a realistic chance of winning the championship.

If Alonso wins, Raikkonen must finish on the podium to keep the competition alive with three races to go.

A winner here last year, Raikkonen dominated much of Saturday's two training sessions, but Alonso put in his fastest lap when the track was at its driest.

The Finn could have beaten Alonso on one blistering lap, but made a steering error on the closing Bus Stop curve.

Alonso lapped the 6.976-kilometer (4.334-mile) circuit in 1 minute, 46.307 seconds, beating his rival by 0.334 of a second. Toyota's Jarno Trulli was third, 0.374 of a second off the lead.

Michael Schumacher, the most successful driver at Spa with six victories, finished ninth to confirm Ferrari's continued problems.

Qualifying is set for Saturday afternoon. *AP*

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Small gives Yankees big lift

NEW YORK—AARON SMALL WON HIS SEVenth straight decision and Alex Rodriguez had three hits and drove in two runs as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox, 8-4, in American League play Friday at Yankee Stadium.

Rodriguez hit his AL-leading 42nd home run of the season for the Yankees and Jorge Posada also homered for the Yankees, who moved to within three games of the first-placed Red Sox in the AL East with the win.

New York also remained one-half game behind the Cleveland Indians in the AL wild card race, as the Tribe beat Minnesota.

Small (7-0) continued his tremendous second half for the Yankees by pitching 6 1/3 innings, allowing four runs on nine hits with three strikeouts and two walks. Small is only pitching for the Yankees because of numerous injuries to the team's pitching staff.

Four relievers finished up for the Yankees, including Mariano Rivera who pitched the ninth in a non-save situation.

Former Yankee David Wells started for Boston, but he allowed a single run in the first four innings before being chased during a four-run sixth inning.

Wells (12-7) allowed six runs—five earned—on nine hits over 5 2/3 innings, striking out two and walking one.

Derek Jeter drove in the game-winning run and made two great defensive plays for the Yankees, who had 14 hits. Posada and Jason Giambi also had three hits and drove in a run for New York.

Bill Mueller had three hits for the Red Sox, while Edgar Renteria had two hits and two RBIs and Johnny Damon had two hits and drove in a run.

In Cleveland, Grady Sizemore homered as the Indians beat the Minnesota Twins, 4-2, to keep the AL wild card lead.

Jake Westbrook (14-14) pitched six innings, allowing two runs on six hits, walking two and striking out three for the win.

Bob Wickman pitched one inning for his 38th save.

Johan Santana (13-7) pitched five innings, allowing four runs on eight hits, walking two and striking out two to take the loss. *Reuters*

Turning
Events
into Business

GOLF SHOW: The Board of Directors the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines recently renewed its contract with Fairs & More Inc. for the management of the annual Philippine International Golf Show and related activities. The 2005 Philippine International Golf Show will take place on Oct. 7-9 at Hall 2, SM Megatrade, SM Megamall. Signing the agreement are, seated, from left, Elaine Garcia-Gatchalian, VP & COO of FMI, Ana Herrera, Golf Show Chairperson, Rommel Baquial, Golf Show Chair and Gerald Raymundo, GDAP Immediate Past President. Standing, from left, are GDAP officials Vangie Desamito, Mert Besa, Richie Macapagal, Dick Posadas of Dunlop and Sweet Esmao, Event Manager of FMI. Please call Fairs & More at 845-1324 or 759-6680 for details.

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Ozamiz tackles Cagayan de Oro in NBC today

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—LEAGUE-LEADING Ozamiz Cotta ends its elimination assignments in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship today by playing the Cagayan de Oro Stars at the Corpus Christi gym here.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers are favored to rack up their 11th win in 13 games in the 6 p.m. contest.

Ozamiz has locked up the homecourt advantage throughout with its sterling record in the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The Stars of former Misamis Oriental Gov. Antonio Calingin are likewise gunning for a homecourt advantage against the Iloilo Warriors in the wild-card phase.

Valencia draws a bye in the first two rounds of the playoffs and waits for its semifinal opponent.

Valencia Golden Harvest will host No. 8 Zanorte Hornbills in a knockout wild-card game.

In the event the Stars lose either to Bacchus/Harbour Centre or Ozamiz, they will be relegated to No. 7.

The Stars pin their hopes on Roderick Ramos and Ronan Isidro, while Ozamiz is expected to experiment on new combinations as part of its preparation for the playoffs.

Last year, Ozamiz lost to defending champion Tribu Sugbu in a three-game series for the Southern Conference title.

St. Clare halts UM run at 86

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WITH UNIVERSITY OF MANILA'S place in collegiate basketball history long secured, St. Clare made sure it captured a piece of it yesterday.

With a desperation heave by guard Dennis San Pedro from mid-court as time expired, St. Clare ended UM's unprecedented winning streak at 86 and restored the balance of power in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball tournament.

San Pedro knew time was running out when he flung the three-pointer that hit its mark as the final buzzer rang out for a rousing 81-80 St. Clare victory at the Casamilan Gym in Quezon City.

"Sooner or later we already knew this is going to happen," said St. Clare president Dr. Ernest Jay Adalem. "I was just glad it's us who finally ended that historic run."

UM's winning streak, which began in the league's inception in 2001, has been the talk in college ball considering that the only thing that came closest to it was the 14 straight wins of University of Santo Tomas to take the 1993 UAAP title.

"I doff my hat off to UM, they have been fueling interest in the league by coming up with that streak," said Adalem. "But I think it's healthier for the league now that somebody has beaten them."

The Saints, who are already assured of the semifinals along with their victims, trailed most of the game and only got back on track with a 25-point binge in the fourth quarter through San Pedro, Chris Manalili and Nino Songco.

Handled by former pro cager and UM stalwart Joel Dualan, St. Clare also tightened up its defense with a punishing full-court press that allowed only nine points for UM in the payoff period.

"It was a good feeling because we didn't want to force it to happen in the first round," said Dualan, who chose to use all his players for the first time against UM two weeks ago. "We thought if it's bound to happen, it will happen."

Yesterday, it was as if the stars converged to make that possible.

UM's Joeward Jamil, fouled by San Pedro from the three-point zone, hit his first charity to give the Hawks an 80-78 cushion with five seconds left in the game. But he bungled the second one and committed a lane violation in the next.

The Hawks then put up a full-court press of their own on the next play, chasing the ball from the inbound going down.

But San Pedro managed to get through two defenders to fire the game-clinching shot that hit nothing but net and sent the largely St. Clare crowd roaring to its feet.

UM will be carrying a 13-1 record in the next round, while St. Clare will earn its 12th win in 14 games.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

ST. CLARE 81—Songco 20, Manalili 18, Badley 12, San Pedro 10, Rivera 7, Geraldino 6, Manas 4, Dizon 3, Diaz 1, Siruma 0.

UM 80—Santiago 28, Regalado 19, Napiza 15, Bernados 11, Litonjua 6, Jamil 1, Maliksi 0, Bonus 0, Facun 0, Delostrino 0.

Quarters: 17-19, 35-44, 56-71, 81-80

Second Game (Srs)

STI 80—Ebuengga 16, Micutuan 10, Belano 9, Bolin 8, Mabayo 8, Dia 6, Wong 5, Legaspi 4, Stapley 4, Lim 4, Lunar 2, Mijares 2, Limpin 2, Castro 0.

UMAK 57—Masterelo 11, Tapit 11, Banguibang 9, Commerciase 9, Tamaray 7, Lunag 5, Barrios3, Bacus 2.

Quarters: 20-14, 35-30, 60-43, 80-57.

TROUBLE IN THE MUD
Motorcycle enthusiasts tumble as they join an amateur motor sport challenge in Manila on Sept 4. The Philippine government says it may ban motor sports as the country tries to conserve gas amid skyrocketing oil prices in the world market. AFP

SPORTSWATCH

Dovelets, Altas score twin kill

DEFENDING champion St. Francis of Assisi-Bayanan Dovelets continued their streak in the girls' division of the 6th Southern Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) at host Colegio San Agustin's Gym in Binan, Laguna, recently. St. Francis crushed the host, 25-16, 25-13, 25-23, to notch its fourth victory in as many games in the 11-school league. St. Francis' male spikers followed suit with a 25-18, 25-6, 25-17 victory over the CSA players. In other results, Perpetual Help-Molino matched the double victory of St. Francis in the girls and midget categories. The Altas spikers clobbered their Perpetual-Calamba counterparts, 25-10, 25-10, 25-19 in the girls' high school division before their midget squad dumped the CSA team, 25-19, 25-12. Philippine Christian U-Dasma broke into Perpetual-Molino and St. Francis' stranglehold with a 25-21, 25-17, 25-19 triumph over Perpetual Help-Calamba in the boys' high school division.

Fistorama features Lapu Lapu fights

FISTORAMA features this afternoon two exciting bouts held at the Lapu Lapu Sports Center in Cebu. Featherweights Muhammad Naseb and JR Sollano slug it out in a scheduled 10-rounder while super-featherweights Al Deliguer and Dexter Delada mix it up in another 10-rounder. The fight card was promoted by Rex "Wakee" Salud. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The show, supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon, is aired nationwide at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9. Meanwhile, Golf Power Plus, supported by PCSO, Tanduay and Samsung airs at 3 p.m. featuring the semifinals of the Cantada Sports Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

1st Batting Challenge set at Sports Kamp

THE FIRST BATTING CHALLENGE 05 GETS UNderway from Sept. 24 to Oct. 16 at the Adidas Sports Kamp (ASK) athletic facility at The Fort.

This inaugural event, according to Arsenic Laurel, president of the ASK and head of the organizing committee, aims to promote and support the baseball and softball programs in the country.

"The Batting Challenge 05 will be a great venue for all baseball and softball players, whether varsity members or just weekend and leisure enthusiasts, to hone and improve their hitting skills," Laurel said.

Registration starts today and ends on Sept. 17 for the three-week long tournament that has San Miguel Corp., Landrover, Go Nuts Donuts, Sunbolt and Titans Baseball Foundation as sponsors.

Under the rules, registered players must form teams composed of three to five players (mixed gender allowed). These teams shall be then classified into two divisions: Open (18 years old and over) and High School (17 years old and below).

"Since admission fee is free of charge, only the first 20 slots, per division, shall be accommodated," added Laurel.

For inquiries on the Batting Challenge 05, call the Adidas Sports Kamp Office at 816-0915 and 816-0433 or contact Santi Ledesma at 0920-9005730.

Jao-Mendoza showdown highlights Superbikes

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—Defending champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Kawasaki and Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex face off in another intense showdown as the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Series stages its fifth leg today at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

Mendoza, finally getting the momentum, pulled a convincing sweep over Jao in the last championship round of this series sanctioned by ithe National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA) and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Aeromed, Kilton Motors, Denso and MOF Company.

Jao, who lost three of the past four races, is raring to get his old form back and bolster his chances for a ninth superbike crown.

Joining the pack are Roderick Chua, Randy Ortiz, Wacky del Rosario and Simon Salenda.

"Well, Benjo has been doing well in the past four races and I expect it to be another tough race," said Jao. "But I'm ready for it and I'm looking forward to getting up there with the champion's trophy."

Sharing the limelight is the 23-man Road Racing Championship where Renan Morales eyes another win against his closest rival Jay Cortez in the Superbikes category.

Torres set to make leap for gold

TORRES: New track win

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHE MAY NOT HAVE THE LONG limbs of Elma Muros-Posadas or the charm of Lydia de Vega-Mercado, but the country's current track and field sweetheart also happens to posses the qualities of her predecessors —sheer talent and good looks.

Marestella Torres' penchant for colorful, body-hugging attire gets as much attention as her seemingly spring-powered leap. The attire helped her win the crowd over, the springy leap boosting her Asian long jump reputation.

Yet the 5-foot-2 charmer with a hot six-pack abs remains shy about her new-found fame.

"I think I still have a lot to work on and I'm giving my career a few years more to achieve that," said the 24-year-old Torres. "I idolize Elma and Lydia but I also want to create my own name."

She just finished an education degree at the Far Eastern University and is also an enlisted personnel of the Philippine Navy.

Her most recent accomplishment was bagging the silver medal in the recent Asian Athletic Championships with a leap of 6.63m, ripping the national mark of 6.56m jointly held by Muros and Lerma Bulauitan.

Earlier, she won the gold medal in the Bangkok and Jakarta legs of the 2005 Asian Grand Prix—an elite tournament reserved for the region's top five athletes in 15 events.

"Right now I'm preparing very hard to win a gold in the SEA Games in front of our countrymen," said Torres.

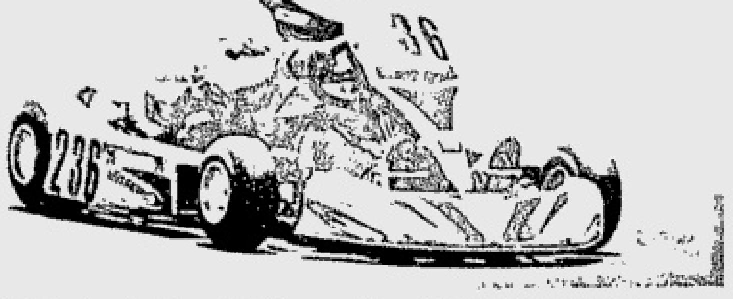
Torres is also set to compete in the triple jump and pole vault.

A native of San Roque, Mindoro Occidental, Torres' only medal in the SEA Games was a bronze two years ago in Vietnam. But her performance this year offers a lot of promise considering that the SEAG recor—held by Muros—is only 6.52m.

Torres is part of the GTK Army seeking at least 15 gold medals this SEA Games. Under the guidance of athletics chief Go Teng Kok, the RP tracksters have long been competing abroad for the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 Games.

"If I can win one gold medal in the SEA Games, I will be happy," said Torres "But I will try to win as many gold medals as I can for my fellow Filipinos."

Just like Muros and De Vega, who was also a jumper of note before she became a sprint marvel, Torres has the same winning attitude.



JAVI Benitez shatters the 29-second barrier in the cadet class.

Benitez rips track mark; seeks cadet expert plum

JAVI BENITEZ OF JET RACING posted a new record and went on to capture runner-up honors recently in the sixth leg of the 2005 Aboitiz-Shell Helix Superkarting Series at the Kart Zone track in Cebu City.

The 10-year-old Benitez, backed by Bingo Bonanza Corporation, Henry Sy Jr of SM companies and Willy Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corporation and Belle Corporation, shattered the 29-second barrier for the cadet class as he posted a new mark of 28.9 seconds on the 11th lap of the final heat.

He showed maturity and consistent driving throughout the 22-lap race, clocking 10:42.503 to remain on target for the overall Cadet 60 Expert crown.

Benitez started sixth on the grid following a mad scramble in the second heat, but passed one driver after another with precision maneuvers to gain second and challenge pole-sitter Roman Carlo Academia.

But time wasn't on Benitez's side as he checked in just 0.255 second behind Academia who finished the 22-lap race in 10:42.249

"The track was fast and challenging but it gave me a different kind of confidence," said Benitez, son of Bingo Bonanza top honcho Albee Benitez. " After finishing sixth in the second race, I told myself to stay focused on the race and give it my best shot to get back on top."

Bacolod braces for RP Amateur

THE PHILIPPINE AMATEUR Golf Championship will be held at the Negros Occidental Golf & Country Club in Bacolod City from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1.

It will mark the first time in 26 years since the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) last held the tournament in the city in 1979.

Practice rounds are set for Sept. 25 and 26 in the event won last year by Jun Bernis at the Villamor Golf Club.

Only the first 100 male registrants with handicaps of 10 and below will be accommodated, while the women's field will feature only the first 60 players.

Bernis will defend his crown against a clutch of hot shots led by Juvic Pagunsan, Michael Bibat, Marvin Dumandan, Jay Bayron, Gene Bondoc, JR Tanpinco, Tonlits Asistio and Boyet Saragoza.

Bacolod City's who's who are expected to grace the Celebrity Am event of the Philippine Amateur Championship on Sept. 26 that is sponsored by ICT-SI, Aboitiz, San Miguel Corp., Hanjin Group, Petron Blaze, Pagcor, PCSO, Bench, Omega, the Department of Tourism and Philippine Airlines.

Epifanio "Panyo" Torres, Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club (NOGCC) president, has assured a hitch-free tournament as he is working feverishly with Golem Silverio, the nine-time champion, in preparing the course to "championship levels."

NOGCC tournament officials led by Luis Gonzaga, Dot Soliven, Remy Montemayor, Jojo Quilop, Nena Mallorca and Joe Cajili assured NGAP secretary general Admiral Louie Fernandez of a pleasant stay by the participants and guests.

Visayas NGAP director Ramon Uy said his aim was to surpass "the beauty of the 1979 tournament when the RP Amateurs was held in our city."

NGAP president Benny Gopez said the choice of Bacolod City as venue "was in keeping with the NGAP program to reach out to golfers in the country and make the game a tool for camaraderie and unity."

Deadline for registration is Sept. 23. For details, call NGAP at 525-6987 or 524-5160 or the NOGCC at (034) 441-1190.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Gung Ho 2. Shaolin 3. My Rabbonnie
Race 2—1. Leading Man 2. Money Order 3. Original 4. Brazen Truth
Race 3—1. Speed Bullet 2. Bunker Buster 3. Classic Royale
Race 4—1. Speed Highness 2. Cheska Run 3. Irish Connection 4. Red Hot Water
Race 5—1. Tellemnolies 2. Breathless 3. Ali Ali Ali 4. Scarab
Race 6—1. Gigi's Gold 2. Day Break 3. She Jinsky 4. Pirouette 5. Carolina Belle
Race 7—1. Being There 2. West Bound 3. Wild Orchid
Race 8—1. Emergency Blow 2. Sham Sham 3. Playing Cool 4. Red Square
Race 9—1. I Love This Game 2. Cryptorose 3. Storm Gauge 4. Bull Rider
Race 10—1. Highly Connected 2. Top Most 3. Daldalera 4. Raven
Race 11—1. Ingay Ingay 2. Lady Victoria 3. Money Maker 4. Don Ramon 5. Epic Energy
Race 12—1. The Warrior 2. Modern Classic 3. Secret Angel 4. First of All
Race 13—1. Friendly Fire 2. Heart of My Soul 3. Julie's Dancer 4. Binukalan's Pride 5. Princess Adarna 6. Black Peacock

Santa Ana Park series leg today

FOUR TOPNOTCH IMPORTS AND LAST year's champion older horse engage in a furious battle for first in the 4th leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship Series today at the Makati hippodrome.

Set over 1,600 meters, the PRCI-sponsored stakes race will be disputed by stakes winning imports' Being there (AUS), Sound Offer (AUS), Suppressed (AUS) and Wild Orchid (NZ), as well as multiple stakes winning local-bred West Bound.

Being There, Sound Offer and Wild Orchid have each won a leg in the 2005 Imported Stakes Series, while Suppressed is coming off a narrow win in the William Inglis—Australia Cup over stable mate Ring Tone just two weeks ago at the same track.

West Bound, on the other hand, came up with a lackluster comeback performance in the recent Anza Cup won by Sound Offer, also at the Santa Ana Park.

Red N Stables Being There (Distorted Humor-Fanfare Bubbles) looms as the horse to beat in the featured dash, coming off a string of impressive race victories over a mile distance.

Happy Grandparents Day!

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that honors
grandparents. It's a
wonderful chance to
thank
you for great times and
feelings and lifelong
gifts
of your love.

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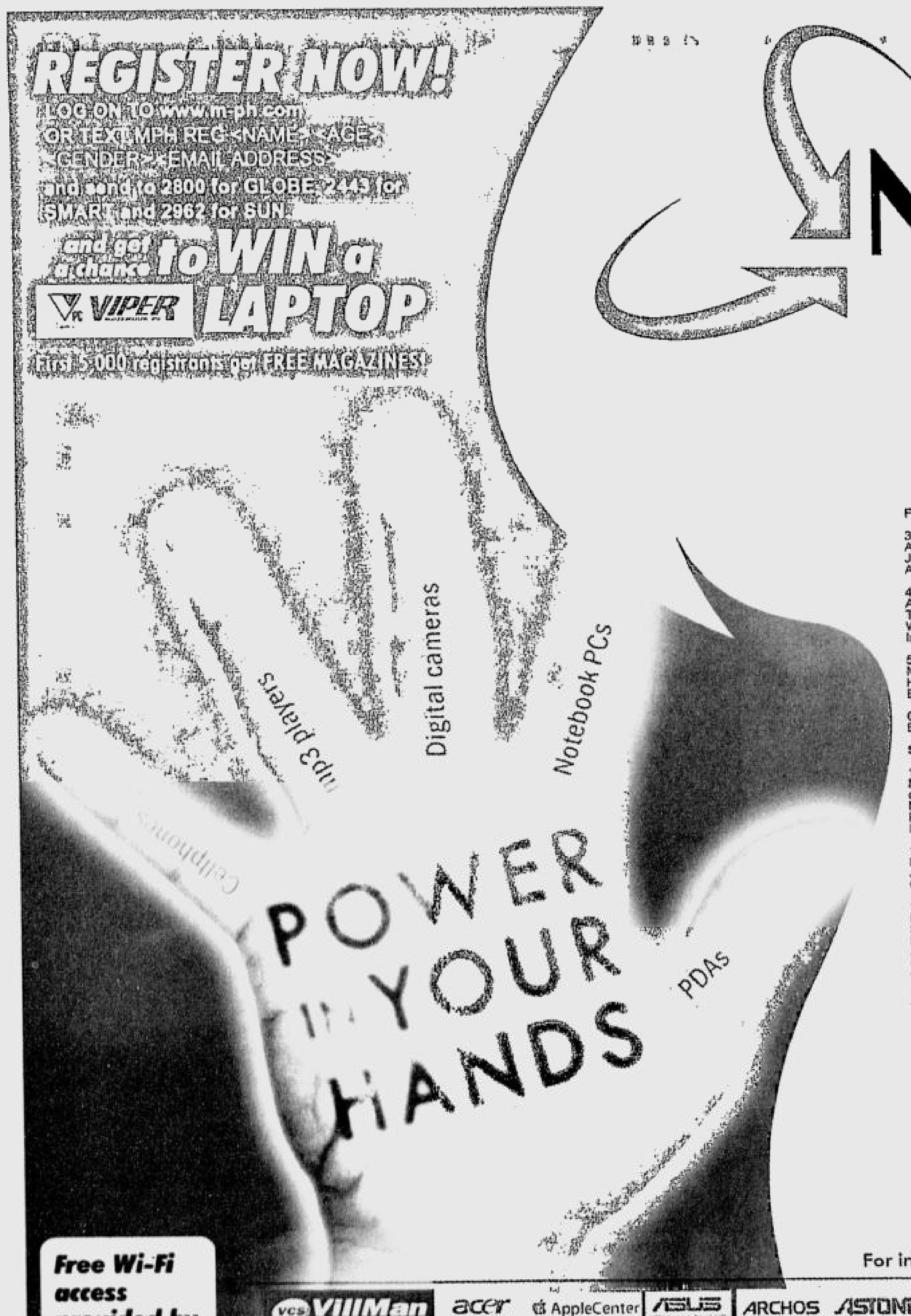

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SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

Friday, 16 September 2005

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Acer Technology Innovation
Jess Cheng, Product Specialist -Acer Notebooks
Acer Philippines, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Advantages of Whitebox Notebook PC: Time to Market
Wowie Wong, Channel Account Manager
Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Mobility
Heidi Co, Product Manager
Epson Philippines Corporation

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Banbros Commercial, Inc.

Saturday, 17 September 2005

10:00 – 11:00 am
Mobile Computing: The Benefit of Internet Access Anytime, Anywhere
Matthew Lloren, Marketing Manager - Product Development, Innove Marketing RNB
Innove Communications, Inc. (Globelines)

11:00 am – 12:00 nn
Experience the Freedom of Wireless Networking
Joel Ocampo, Product Specialist, Linksys
Cisco Systems, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Mobile Printing Lifestyle
Katrina Tioseco, Product Assistant - Digital Cameras and Selphy Photo Developers /
Jill Santiago, Product Assistant - Canon BubbleJet Printers
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Wireless Internet Service
Martin Lopez, Product Manager - GlobeQUEST Internet VAS
Innove Communications, Inc. (GlobeQUEST)

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Release Your Jabra
Alex Chua, Sales and Marketing Head,
JabraComlan, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Ultra Portability / Burn Clip Burn / Fiendly Power
Mr. Jonathan Dee, Managing Director, NetEssentials Corporation /
Mr. Carlo Ma. Guerrero, President - Pinoy Windows Mobile and Microsoft Most Valuable Professional for Windows Mobile
Network Essentials, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
Portable Music and Movies Whenever and Wherever You Go
Jason Teh, General Manager
Quadtron Technologies, Inc.

6:00 – 7:00 pm
Apple iPod
Maleng Raysa, Operations Manager
Apple Center

Sunday, 18 September 2005

10:00 – 11:00 am
Colour Your Music
Rose Dee Oquendo, Product Manager, Creative MP3 Products
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.

1:00 – 2:00 pm
Digital Lifestyle
Cecilio Tuanquin, Sales Manager - Apple, iPod, iPAQ
Microwarehouse, Inc.

2:00 – 3:00 pm
Windows Mobile
Rey Vegafria, Founder, Airfagev.com
Microsoft Philippines

3:00 – 4:00 pm
Mobility and Portability
Michael Payumo, Sales and Support Manager
Intersystem Technologies, Inc.

4:00 – 5:00 pm
Highlights for VPC Viper Notebook
Ricky Talato, Product Manager
VillMan Computer Systems, Inc.

5:00 – 6:00 pm
The Integral V Mio
Erwin Abad, Sales Manager
Video Vox Corporation

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He's Just Not That Into You
with Greg Behrendt at Greenbelt

Greg's Stand-Up Comedy
September 15, 8 pm Greenbelt 3 Park

Greg talks about his bestseller
September 16 - 6pm Greenbelt 3 Lobby
(book signing follows after his talk)

Visit www.ayalaland.com.ph

Book signing passes available on a first come first serve basis at the Greenbelt 3 Customer Service Booth starting September 16, 11 am
For more details, please call 752 7272

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
BPI's Real 0% Christmas Wishlist Installment Madness September 7 to 25, 2005	The Magic of Curtis September 9 to 11, 2005	World Alzheimer's Day Celebration September 18, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

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Sex And The City consultant
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September 15 & 16

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AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 RED EYE	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 SKY HIGH	4 THE CAVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LONG WEEKEND	2 THE CAVE	3 THX RED EYE 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LORDS OF DOGTOWN	5 SKY HIGH	6 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	7 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 RED EYE 11:00, 12:55, 2:50, 4:45, 6:40, 8:35	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:45		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX RED EYE 1:55, 3:50, 5:45, 7:40, 9:35, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE LONGEST YARD 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SKY HIGH 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 LONG WEEKEND 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE BROTHERS GRIMM	2 RED EYE		
	3 LONG WEEKEND	4 SKY HIGH	5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	2 RED EYE	3 LONG WEEKEND	4 THE CAVE

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MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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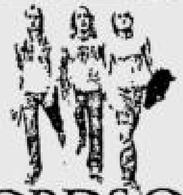

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MTRCB Rating: General Audience (G)

DREW BARRYMORE JIMMY FALLON

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Will they ever get into each other?

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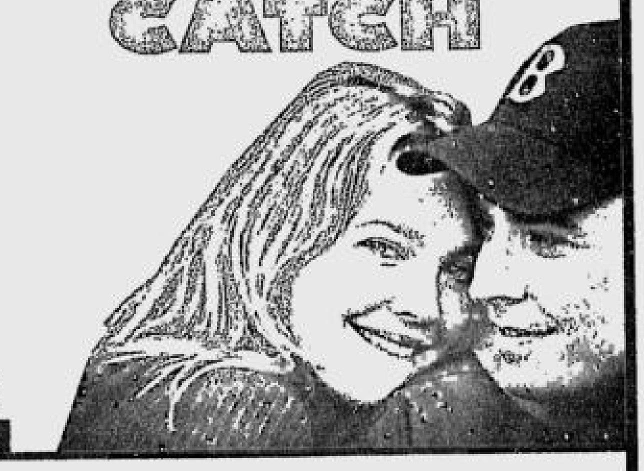

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Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
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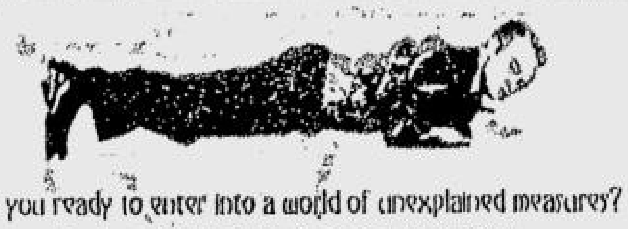
① The Dukes of Hazzard
② The Longest Yard
③ Valiant
④ Sky High
⑤ The Cave

EVENTS! EVENTS!



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- Marvel at the grand fireworks display after the show on Sept. 16, in front of the Playzone area!

Jollibee

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 THE LONGEST YARD • THX
2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

3 SKY HIGH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 THE CAVE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 THE LONG WEEKEND
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

6 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

9 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 RED EYE
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

2 THE LONGEST YARD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

4 THE CAVE
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50

5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 THE LONG WEEKEND
10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

7 SKY HIGH
10:30 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 THE CAVE
1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

3 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

4 SKY HIGH
2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 THE LONGEST YARD
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

6 RED EYE
12:35 2:45 4:55 7:05 9:15

7 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05

8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 RED EYE
2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 THE CAVE
4 THE LONG WEEKEND

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1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
4 THE GREAT RAID

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 BEWITCHED
2 EVIL EYES
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 SKY HIGH
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 RED EYE
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 SKELETON KEY

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 CRASH
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 RED EYE
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

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2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3 SKY HIGH
4 THE LONGEST YARD
5 EVIL EYES
6 SKELETON KEY

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELLING PANTS
2 BEWITCHED
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 ARAHAN
5 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIORS
6 EVIL EYES

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

7th Cinemanila film fest launches competition

CALLING all digital filmmakers: The 7th Cinemanila International Film Festival, which will be held on Oct. 12 to 25, is now accepting entries for the Local Digital Film competition.

"We are hoping aspiring filmmakers will participate. We want to promote Filipino films globally and develop new and independent filmmakers," Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said last week.

Festival director Tikoy Aguiluz said this year's theme is Buhayin ang Pelikulang Pilipino.

"The festival hopes to promote Filipino films to world cinema audiences and vice versa, as well as discover new and independent filmmakers," Aguiluz said.

Atienza added that Cinemanila would continue its tradition of showing both Filipino and foreign films that eventually would make significant impact abroad. He said local productions would be given more focus and encouragement.

The festival is open to digital full-feature films. To qualify, the film must be produced after January 2004 and must be digital in format—either DV, HD, 24P or HDV. It must be directed by a Filipino citizen and should not have been exhibited in any festival, commercially, locally or internationally in any screening that involves selling tickets. It should be at least 80 to 130 minutes in length including credits. It may be in Filipino or any regional dialect with English subtitles.

Ten winners will be chosen. The grand prize is P1.5 million, second prize P1 million, and third prize P750,000. The remaining finalists will each receive P100,000.

All entries must use the official standard entry forms provided by the Cinemanila secretariat. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sept. 16.

For inquiries, visit the Cinemanila International Film Festival secretariat at the Manila Tourism Office, Room 137, Manila City Hall.

Tina G. Santos

INSIDE

■ Lea to sing for urgent cause; 'Da Vinci Code' fans can't wait to crack film version /A4-1

■ Yesterday: Sweet Caridad /A3-1

In the bedroom with Willie, Cesar and Rico J

SINGER Rico J, TV host Willie Revillame and Hollywood movie actor Cesar Montano will be featured in a show titled, "The Bedroom Boys" at the Araneta Coliseum on Sept. 16.

Rico J., of course, will sing hit songs "Kapalaran" and "May Bukas Pa."

Willie will delight audiences with his humor and antics. Cesar Montano will surprise fans by performing songs from his album which turned platinum when it was launched years back.

SHOW TIME

Cesar is this year's recipient of the Best Actor and Best Director awards from the Urian. He was last seen in the Hollywood movie "The Great Raid," which featured him with stars Benjamin Bratt, James Franco, Joseph Fiennes and Connie Nielsen.

The show is directed by Edgar Mortiz, with script by Willie Cuevas and musical direction by Gerry Matias. Special guests are Jenine Desiderio, Francine Prieto and Ana Leah Javier. For tickets, call Ticketnet outlets or NJAssociates at 3734265.

September 11

Grandparents' Day Celebration featuring "Swinging Seniors Ballroom Dancing Competition" at Starmall Edsa, Metropolis Star Alabang and Starmall Las Piñas

September 12

The RX Concert Series featuring Barbie Almalbis live at the RX Studios

Unlabeled at Suburbia

Bernie Uy at Merk's

Retrostars at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 8991658.

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square

Dawn Bande at Pan Pacific Hotel Casino; 8 p.m.

September 13

Freeverse at Suburbia

Ang4gettables and Dawn Bande at Merk's

Men in Gold at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 8991658.

Akafellas at Tavern on the Square

Rockin' Revival at Strumms, Makati

DAWN Bande

September 14

Pseudonymz at Suburbia

Richard Merk, Eddie Katindig, Mon David and Sandra Lim at Merk's

Stella Ruiz at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 8991658.

RJ at Discovery Suites, Ortigas. Call 6352222.

Side A at Tavern on the Square

Dawn Bande at Bonfire Grill, Marikina Riverbanks Mall; 8:30 p.m.

September 15

Mojo Fly at Music One

Faith Cuneta in "One: The World Tour" concert at the Music Museum

Velcro and Keystone at Suburbia

Anna Fegi and Dawn Bande at Merk's

Elderly Brothers at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 8991658.

Michaelangelo at Tavern on the Square

Rockin' Revival at Funnside, Timog Ave., QC

September 16

"The Bedroom Boys" Rico J. Puno, Willie Revillame and Cesar Montano in concert at the Araneta Coliseum with guests Jenine Desiderio, Francine Prieto and Ana Leah Javier. Call 3734265.

Bryony Lavery's "Frozen" featuring Jamie Wilson, Roselyn Perez and Jenny Jamora at the Republic of Malate; 8 p.m.

"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater

IN THE BEDROOM/ A2-2

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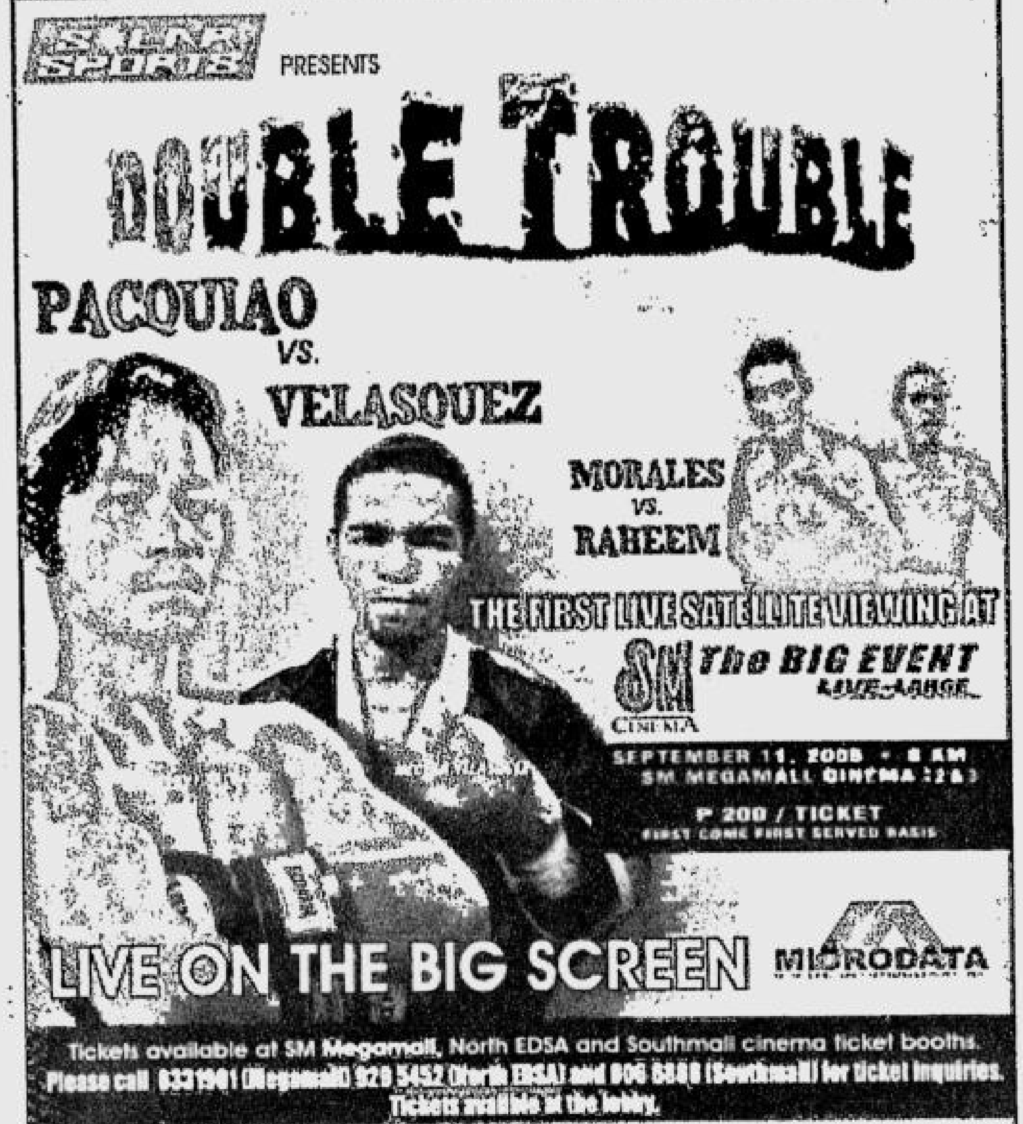
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Tickets available at the lobby.

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 RED EYE
12:30FS/01.00MF/03.30/05:00/07.00
08.25FB/09.00LMF/10.25END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
11.10FB/11.20MF/01.45/06.35
08.35LFB/09.30LFS/11.00END

MEGAMALL
RED EYE
11:30FS/12:00MF/02.20/04.00/06.08/08:00
09:30LFB/10.00LFS/11.25END

MANILA
LONGEST YARD
10:30FB/10.40MF/12.50/03.00/05:10/07:20
09:15FB/09.30LMF/11.40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CAVE
11:20FB/11.30MF/01.30/03.30/05.30/07:30
09.10FB/09.30LMF/11.10END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:30FB/10.40MF/12.50/03.00/05.10/07:20
09:20FB/09.30LMF/11.30END
3 RED EYE
11.50FB/12.00MF/01.54/03.48/05:42/07:36
09.03LFB/09.30LFS/10.55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 RED EYE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 THE CAVE
7 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 BROTHERS GRIMM
10 RESERVED
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LAZARUS CHILD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 SKELETON KEY
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONG WEEKEND
10 EVIL EYES
11 DUKES OF HAZZARD
12 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM NORTH EDSA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 THE CAVE
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LONGEST YARD
5 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
6 SKY HIGH
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 RED EYE

SM CITY STA MESA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 LONGEST YARD
5 RED EYE
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 DUKES OF HAZZARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
4 RED EYE
5 LONG WEEKEND
6 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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8 DUKES OF HAZZARD
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SM CITY MANILA
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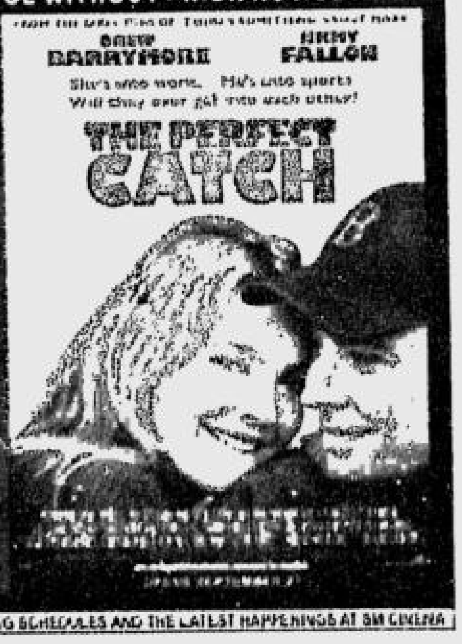
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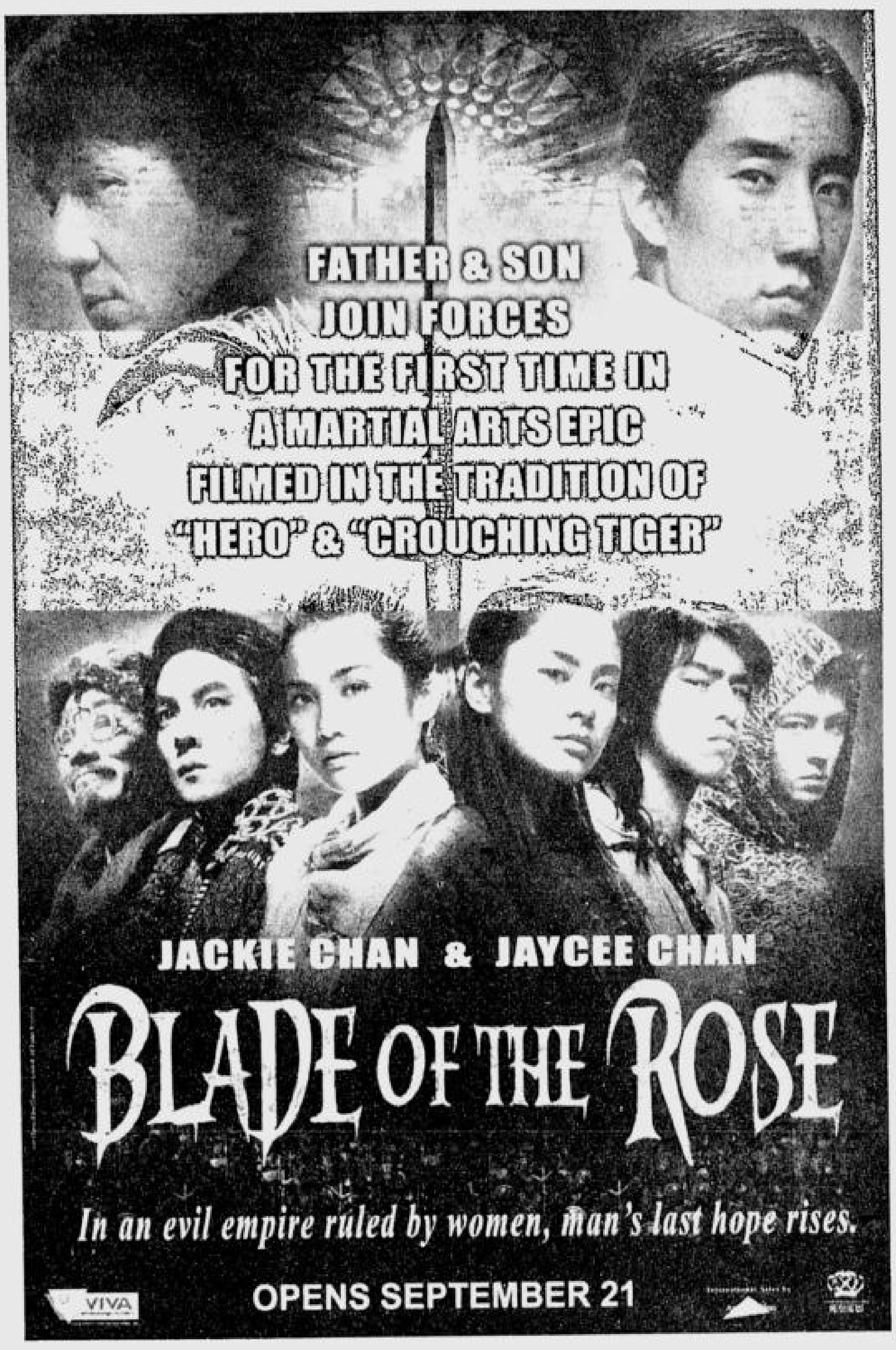
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JACKIE CHAN & JAYCEE CHAN
BLADE OF THE ROSE
In an evil empire ruled by women, man's last hope rises.
OPENS SEPTEMBER 21
VIVA

OPENS SEPTEMBER 14!
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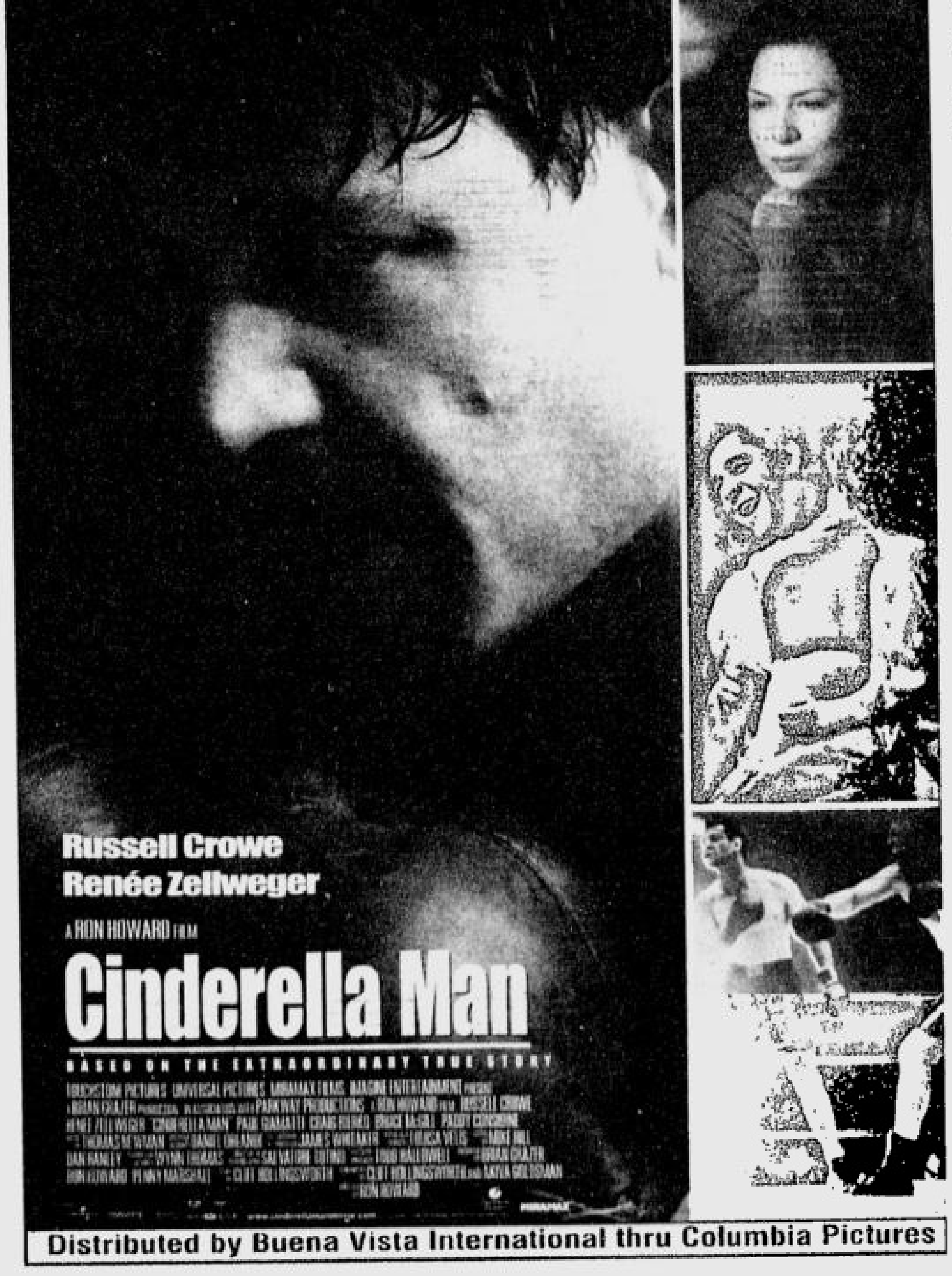

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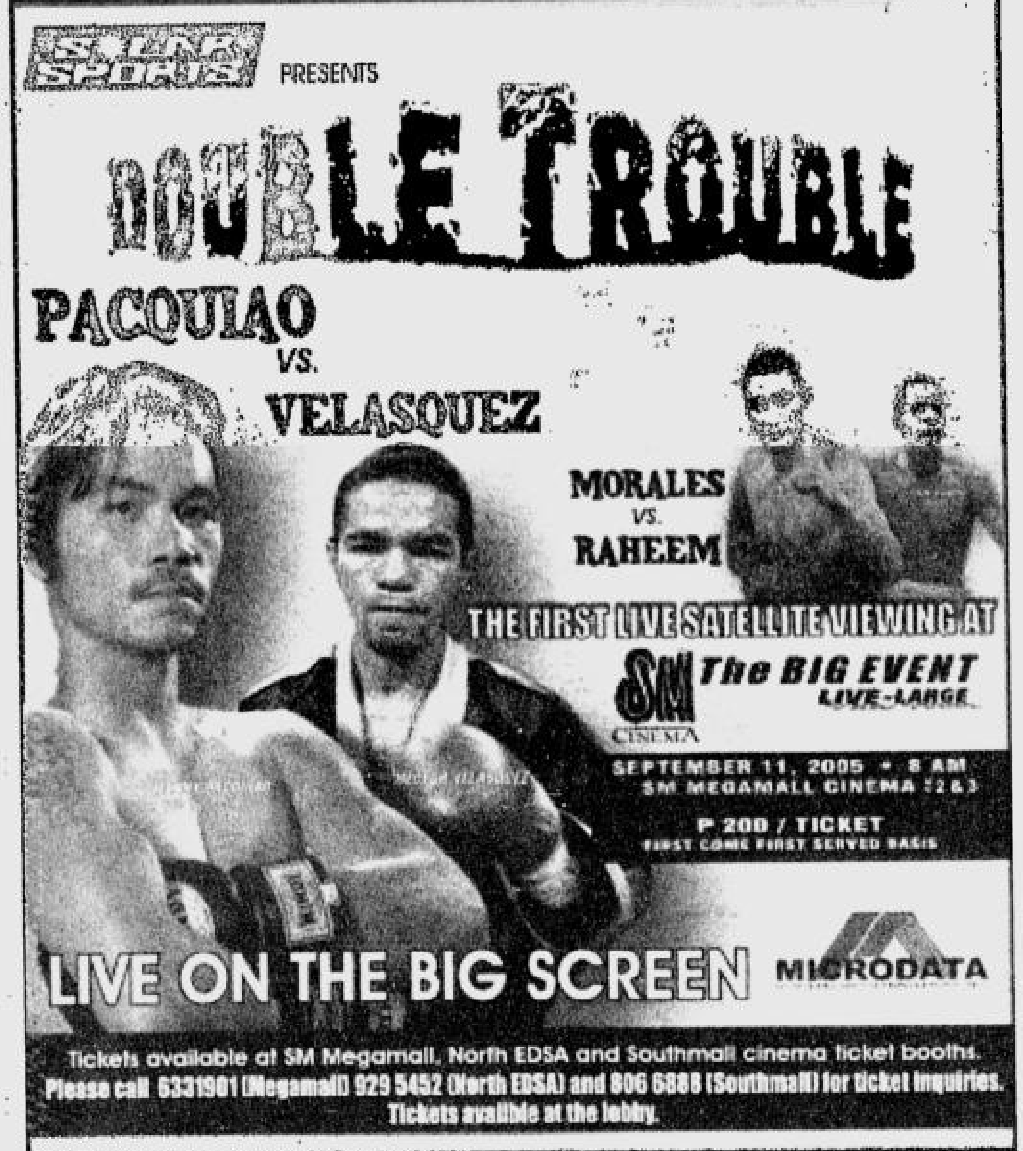
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THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 RED EYE
12:30FB/01.00MF/03 30/05:00/07.00
08.25FB/09.00LMF/10:25END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
11.00FB/11.20MF/01.45/06.35
08.35LFB/09.30LFB/11.00END

MEGAMALL
RED EYE
11.30FB/12.00MF/02.00/04.00/06.00/08:00
09:30LFB/10.30LFB/11.25END

MANILA
LONGEST YARD
10:30FB/10.40MF/12.50/03.00/05:10/07:20
09:15FB/09.30LMF/11.40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CAVE
11:20FB/11.30MF/01.30/03.30/05.30/07:30
09.10FB/09.30LMF/11:10END
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:30FB/10.40MF/12.50/03.00/05.10/07:20
09:20FB/09.30LMF/11.30END
3 RED EYE
11:50FB/12.00MF/01.50/03.40/05.42/07:36
09.03LFB/09.30LFB/11.55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
RED EYE
SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 THE CAVE
7 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
8 LONG WEEKEND
9 BROTHERS GRIMM
10 RESERVED
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
LAZARUS CHILD
D' ANOTHERS
3 SKELETON KEY
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 THE CAVE
BROTHERS GRIMM
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONG WEEKEND
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12 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM NORTH EDSA
BROTHERS GRIMM
THE CAVE
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5 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
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SM CITY MANILA
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8 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
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10 SKELETON KEY
11 EVIL EYES
12 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY STA MESA
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 SKY HIGH
3 THE CAVE
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5 RED EYE
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 THE GREAT RAID
9 DUKES OF HAZZARD
10 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
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3 THE CAVE
4 RED EYE
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7 LONGEST YARD
8 DUKES OF HAZZARD
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SM SAN LAZARO
1 RED EYE
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3 THE CAVE
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5 SKYHIGH
6 LONGEST YARD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 THE CAVE
3 RED EYE
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1 LONGEST YARD
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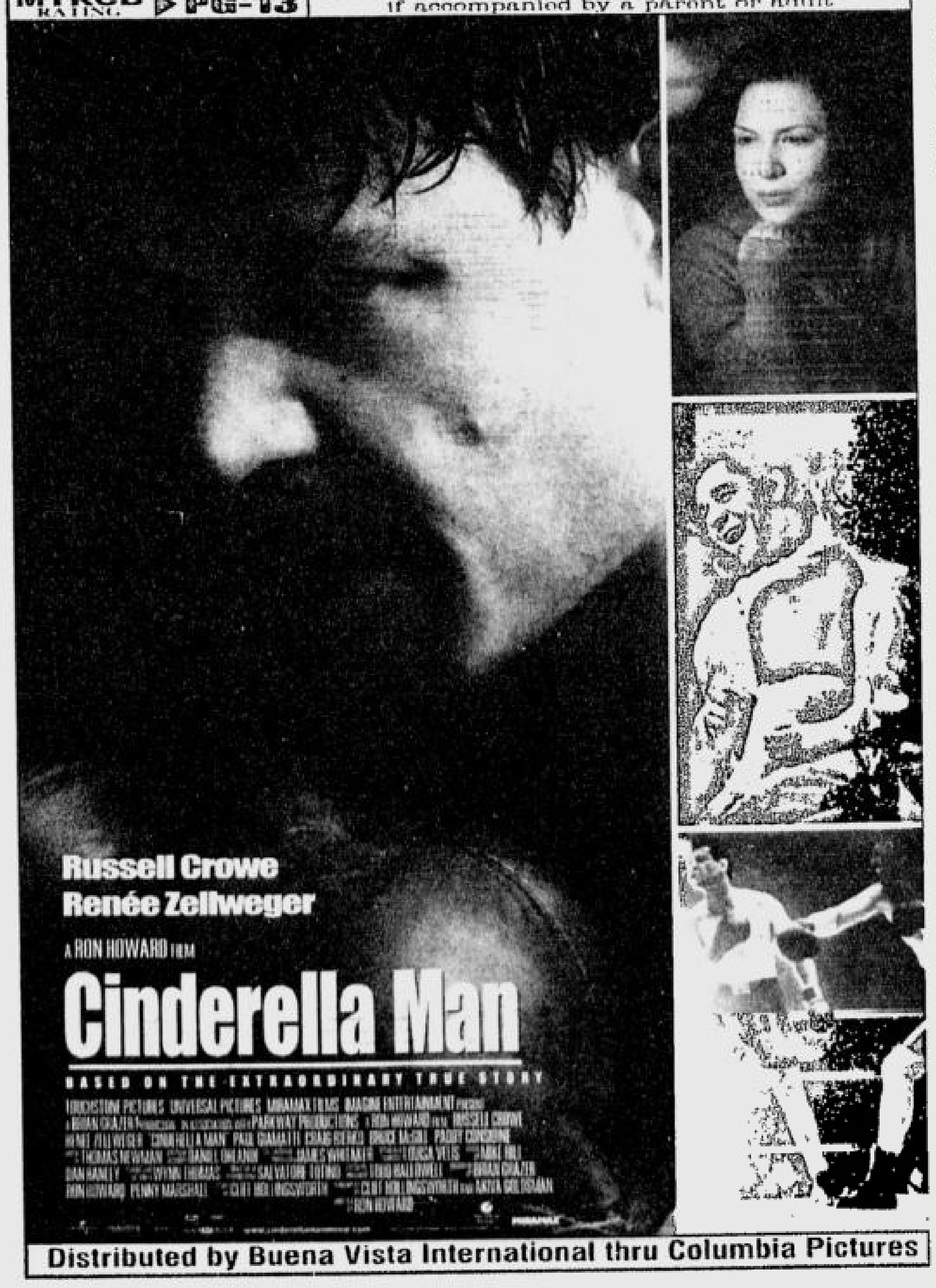
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TAKE FIVE

Omnie: Champ is the gear.

Roll: He dictates the pace.

Omnie: Roll is either the chassis or the steering wheel. I'm the side mirror.

Roll: No, he's the spark plug.

Omnie: Just like a car, you combine all these components to make it whole.

What's your reaction when people say your music belongs to the "*pogi* rock" category?

Roll: *Pogi* rock? Hello?

Champ: They're clueless. Firstly, *hindi kami nagpapakapogi*.

Sheldon: It's not our fault if people think we are *pogi*.

Omnie: We don't mind it. It's likely that these people have not yet experienced Hale.

Roll: Yeah, we've heard about that comment. We don't find it offensive. It's just... wrong. We don't write songs just so we could get girls.

Champ: They probably said that because majority of our followers are girls. We want to clear that up: We don't want a fan base that's all girls.

HALE members (from left) Sheldon, Roll, Omnie and Champ: "It's not our fault if people think we are *pogi*." RAFFY LERMA

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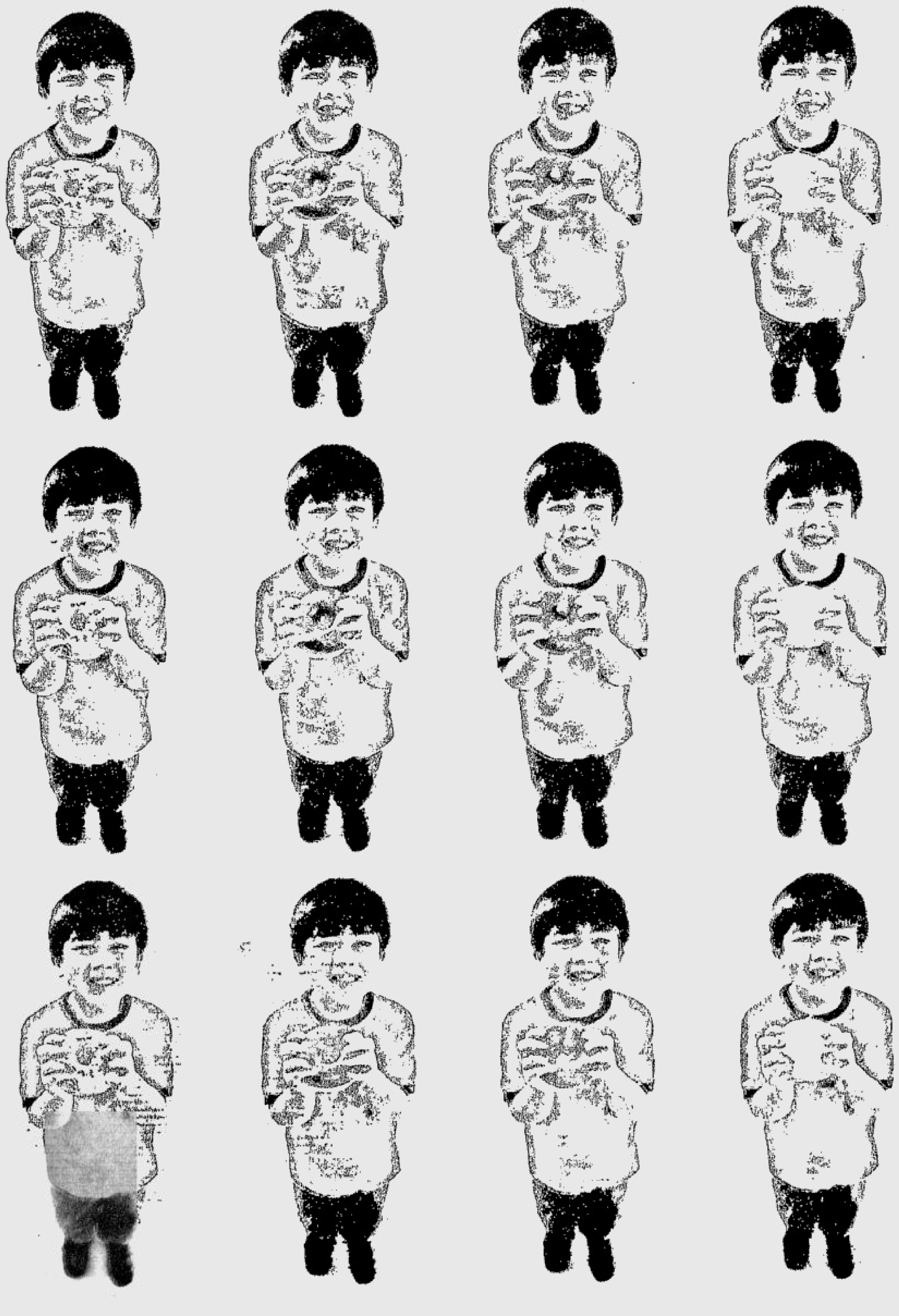

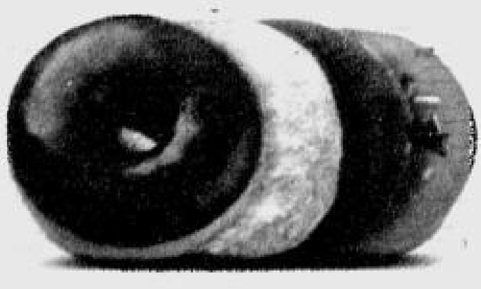

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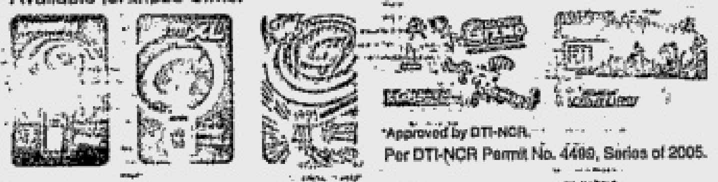

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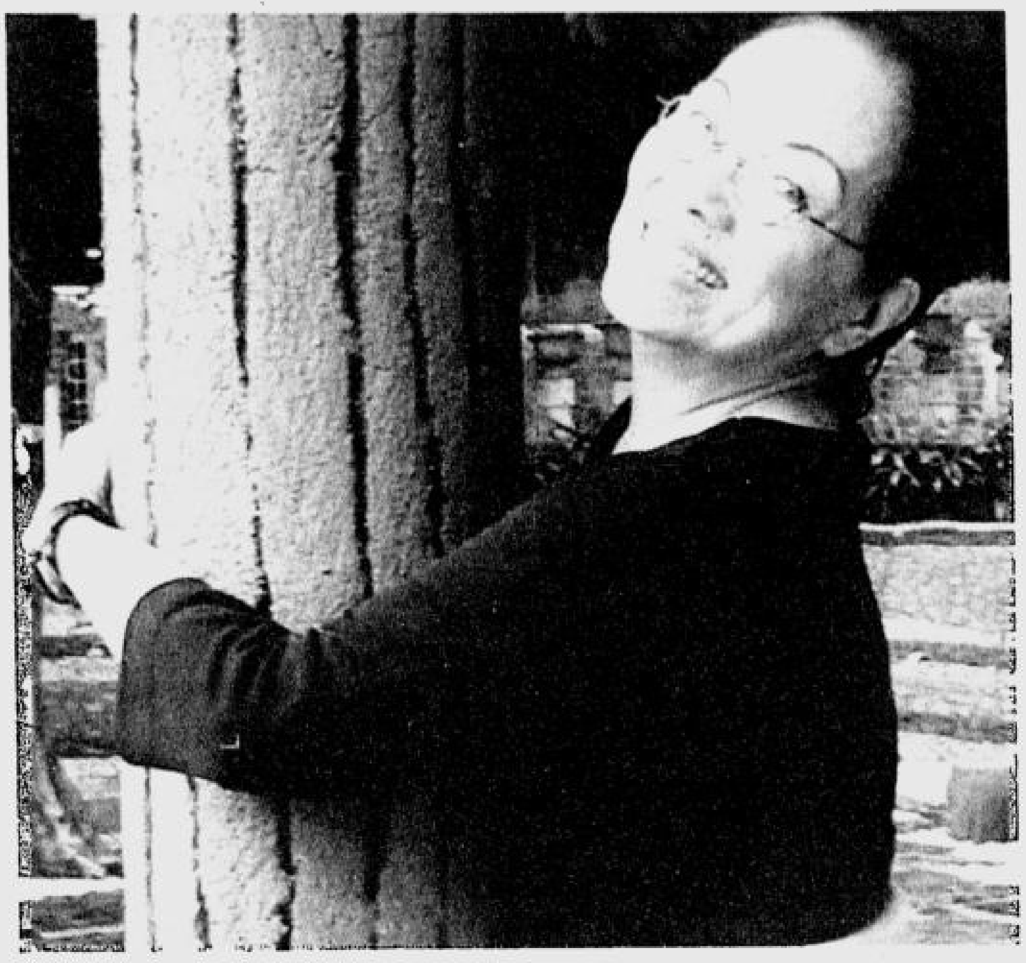
Sweet Caridad

From Cebu cinema, she joined the big league—and proceeded to log in five decades, at the latest count, in show biz



By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Roger Carpio
ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARIDAD SANCHEZ

"I'M A FIGHTER," QUIPS CARIdad Sanchez and from the sound of it, it's best not to argue.

This was the same headstrong Cebuana who, against all odds, made it big in Tagalog cinema in 1958—in spite of the "bias against Visayans and non-*mestizas*."

"I'm my mother's daughter," she explains. "I was the youngest of 15 children. But we never had a hard time, even during World War II, because my mother, Sofia Yuson, was a brave woman. A survivor."

The clan's "baby" took after the matriarch.

"In elementary and high school, I topped declamation contests and competed in baseball tournaments," she recalls.

In an elocution contest at the University of the Visayas, another future star of Cebuano cinema, Gloria Sevilla, edged Caridad "by just one point."

A schoolmate then persuaded Caridad to appear as an extra in "Dimakaling" in 1950.

Willful Caridad, of course, did it on the sly.

"When my mom saw the movie, she was so furious, she wanted to hang me upside down," she says, laughing.

Undeterred, she did voice acting in radio serials, which eventually led to her big-screen debut in "Politika."

YESTERDAY

WITH her back-to-back awards from the Citizens' Council for Mass Media

IN "Dahlia" (second from left)

"I played a tomboy in that movie produced by Natalio Bacalso for Visayas-Mindanao Productions," she recounts. "A radio commentator, he brought prestige to Cebuano cinema. He instructed his stars not to ride jeepneys; only taxis. So I asked for cab fare!"

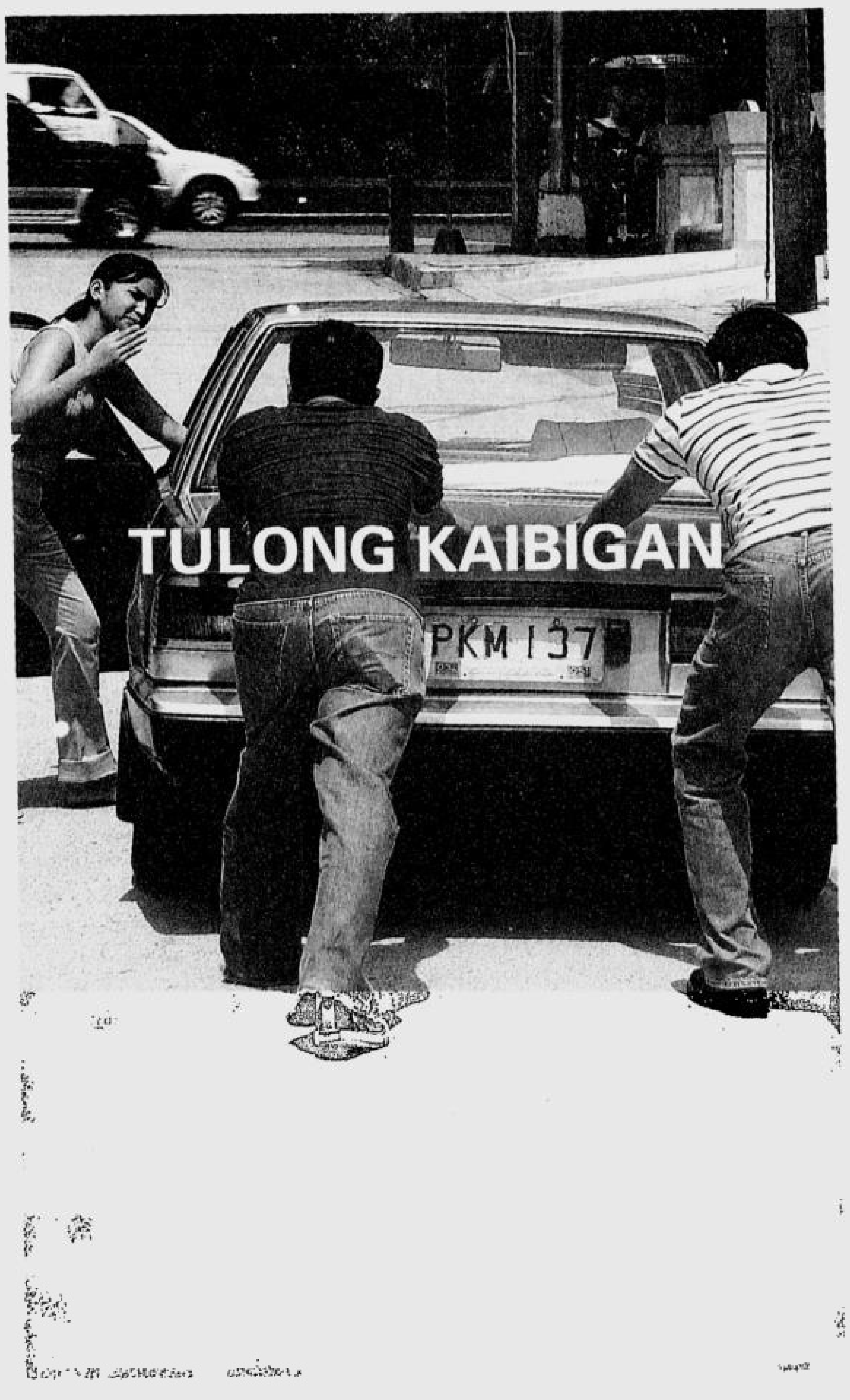
A string of Cebuano flicks followed, culminating in "Garbosa" in 1958.

Since her then-boyfriend had crossed over to Tagalog cinema with much success, she thought he would help her do the same.

Instead of a warm welcome, he dissuaded her harshly when she caught up with him at a diner in Escolta: "He told me that Manila studios only wanted *mestizas*."

Heartbroken, she walked from downtown, grimly considering her future: in front of her stood Jones Bridge and Quiapo Church. As testament to her chutzpah, she chose not to

SWEET/ A3-2



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CINEMA 5 RED EYE PG13 10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50

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2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
MTRCB. PG-13
11.00, 1.45, 4.30, 7.15, 10.00

3 SKY HIGH
MTRCB. GP
12.20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

4 THE LONG WEEKEND
MTRCB. R-13
12.15, 2.30, 4.45, 7:00, 9:15

PREMIERE THEATRE THE LONGEST YARD
MTRCB. PG-13 11:15, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:40
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Shangri-La Plaza

New sit

LAST Saturday, SEPT. 3, WITHOUT SKIPPING a beat, GMA 7 replaced "Idol Ko si Kap" with "Hokus-Pokus," retaining the original show's leads, **Bong Revilla** and **Rufa Mae Quinto.**

Riding on the current telenovela trend, "Hokus-Pokus" is a fantasy and magic-oriented sitcom in which Rufa Mae plays a bratty white witch who finds herself being forced to work as a housemaid in a tough neighborhood in Metro Manila.

She works in the household of an undercover cop (Bong) who masquerades as a jeepney driver. He's a widower with two young children and a niece who lives with them. Rufa Mae has her hands full taking care of them—until she decides to use her magical powers to make all that housework a breeze!

The new fantasy sitcom is an improvement on "Idol" because it's less sexy, rude and cynical in its humor. Its fantasy element makes it appeal to a more family audience than the previous program's *pang-macho* comic proclivities.

That's fine as far as positive c but it makes the presence of sexy problem. Her obvious physical c look strange in a family show, a comes off as too mature for her and flighty characteristics, as wri

Well, they'll just have to m able adjustments for all of t distractions or ungainly aspec duction should also light a fi kiddie and teen actors, to liv performances.

As for Bong, he needs to fin proach for his new character. It warding to watch him doing pre same, old shtick. A new role re ent characterization, tempo, w and moving, motivation, etc.

To be fair to the new pro show's viewers *and* his desultory needs to work harder and be mo creative. All performers need to Bong shouldn't consider himself to that self-regulating rule.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangrila Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
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2 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH GP
4 (DOLBY) THE LONG WEEKEND R13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE LONGEST YARD PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) LONG WEEKEND
2 (SDDS) RED EYE
3 (DTS) DUKE OF HAZZARD
4 GOLD (DTS) RED EYE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE CAVE
6 GOLD (SDDS) SKY HIGH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
8 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 (DOLBY) BROTHERS GRIMM
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DOLBY) THE LONGEST YARD

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 (DOLBY) VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
4 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 RESERVED
4 THE BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ARAHAN
2 EVIL EYE
3 PUSANG GALA
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMAS
(Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274
1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RED EYE
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 (DTS ES) SKELETON KEY
4 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
4 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 CRASH D/W THE GHOST HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED
4 (DTS) THE GREAT RAID

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 MUST LOVE DOGS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
5 THE CAVE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
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2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) THE BROTHERS GRIMM
6 THE CAVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
2

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 (DTS) LONGEST YARD
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
4 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
3 (DTS) LONGEST YARD
4 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
2 BEWITCHED
3 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
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2 VALIANT
3 (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOGS
4 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 BEWITCHED
2 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
3 (DOLBY) EVIL EYE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) PUSANG GALA
2 EVA LASON NI ADAN
3 HOTDOG
4 (DTS) LISENSYADONG KAMAO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
2 TUKAAN
3 (DTS) LONGEST YARD
4 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
5 GODSEND

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANT
2 BEWITCHED
3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
4 EVIL EYE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PUSANG GALA
2 CRASH

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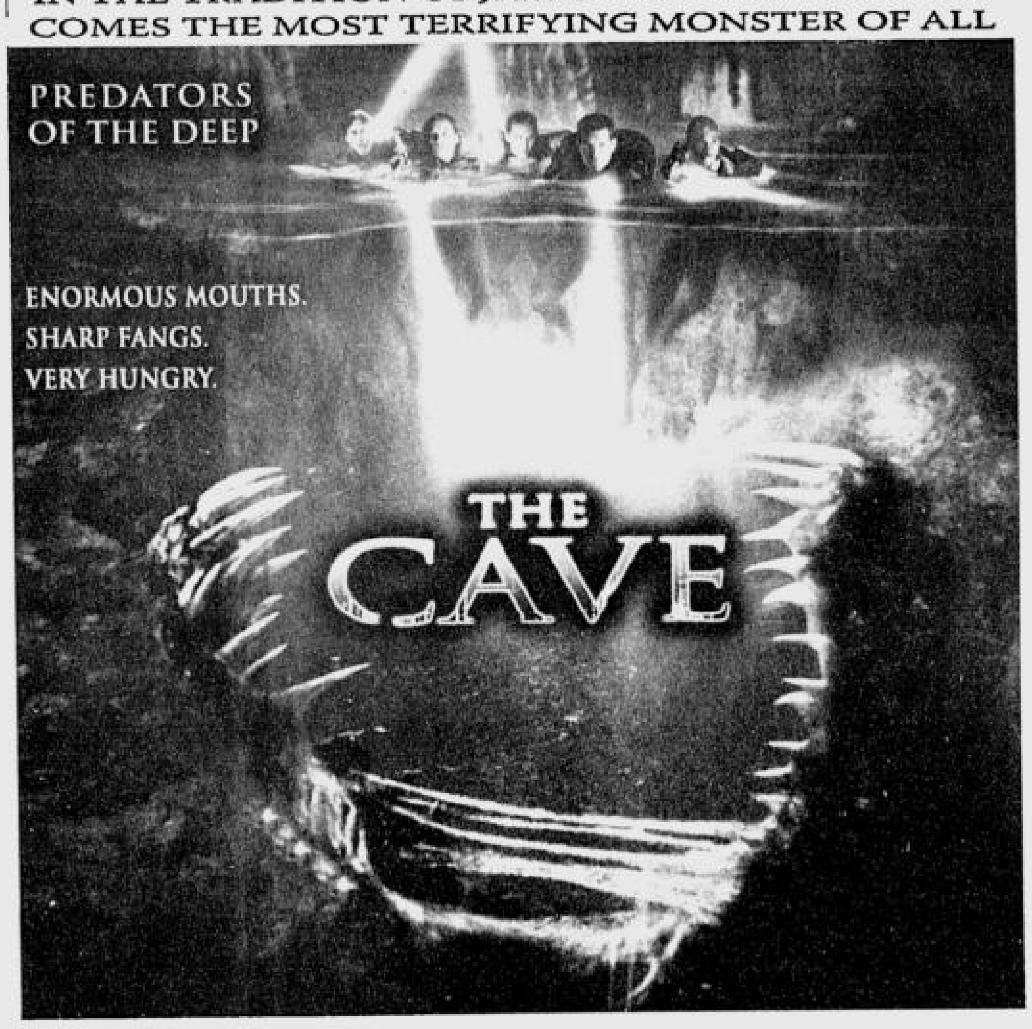

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THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
LISENSYADONG KAMAO 12:30 / 2:40 / 4:50 / 7:00 / 9:10

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
RED EYE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
DUKES OF HAZZARD 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
LONGEST YARD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
SKELETON KEY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
SKY HIGH 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

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❷ THE CAVE 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
❸ RED EYE 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
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CENTER EVENTS
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Sweet

jump from the former, and instead prayed—and wept buckets—in the latter.

Later that same day, she renewed ties with old pal Fernando Poe Jr. who gladly promised to help her break into the biz.

"But he recommended me to Larry Santiago Productions," she says. "I was eyeing the Big Three—Sampaguita, Premiere or LVN."

LVN screen test

On the eve of her return to Cebu, Caridad got herself a smart haircut and persuaded her cousin Luz to accompany her to the three major studios.

She looks back: "Security was strict, so we went with Nazario Baz, editor of Bisaya magazine. I had pictures taken with the stars—Carol Varga, Oscar Roncal and Juancho Gutierrez."

They failed to meet stars on the LVN lot because they had arrived after 5 p.m. at the studio, the last on their itinerary. A bigger prize awaited her at LVN, however.

Fondly, Caridad remembers: "At the canteen, Nazario brought Ate Mareng Sevilla, the niece of Doña Sisang, to meet me." Of course, Doña Sisang was Narcisa de Leon, owner of LVN.

While having merienda, Ate Mareng asked Caridad if she was willing to take a screen test with famed filmmaker Gregorio Fernandez.

The test turned out to be an actual scene in "Malvarosa."

Marilyn Monroe walk

"Imagine, all the movie's big stars—Charito Solis, Eddie Rodriguez, Leroy Salvador—were watching my audition," she gasps. "To make matters worse, my scene was with Vic Silayan."

Despite the frayed nerves, she didn't miss a beat. "I was no quitter even back then. I wore a spaghetti-strapped dress and high heels and my waistline was only 21. So I did my Marilyn Monroe walk in front of them!"

Swiftly, word spread in the LVN compound about the confident Cebuana. She was given her biggest break in "Casa Grande."

"I was given kilometric lines in 'Casa,'" she relates. "So the studio assigned a nanny from Bulacan to me, to get rid of my Cebuano accent. My *yaya* never hesitated to correct me. In three months, I was speaking straight Tagalog."

"Casa Grande" helped the Cebuano import catch the attention of Doña Sisang.

"I didn't use a stuntman, I jumped from the third floor of a tower," she chortles. Her reason: "I didn't want to lend my dress to the stuntman. What if he had B.O.?"

After Caridad took the plunge, director Manuel Conde was so ecstatic he embraced her. Co-star Carmencita Abad nearly fainted, though, and chided her: "*Hoy*, Bisaya, don't you dare do that again"

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Sept. 11 at 12 noon, "Big Fish." 4 p.m., "The Last Samurai." 8 p.m., "Syriana," 8:30 p.m., "The American President." Sept. 12 at 6:30 a.m., "Pontiac Moon." 7 p.m., "Batman Forever." Sept. 13 at 9 a.m., "The Hollow." 12 noon, "Avenging Angelo." 1:45 p.m., "The Return of the King." 7 p.m., "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself." Sept. 14 at 12 noon, "The School of Rock." 5:15 p.m., "Helter Skelter." 11:35 p.m., "Top Gun."

On Cinemax, Sept. 11 at 9 p.m., "Confidence." Sept. 12 at 11:45 a.m., "A League of Their Own." 2 p.m., "East of Eden." 9 p.m., "Plots with a View." Sept. 13 at 8:30 a.m., "Ghostbuster." Sept. 14 at 1:30 p.m., "Ironweed."

On Star Movies, Sept. 11 at 8:30 p.m., "Opening Night! Cinderella Man." Host Terence Yin presents exclusive scenes from the boxing drama directed by Ron Howard, and starring **Russell Crowe**, **Renee Zellweger** and **Paul Giamatti**.

At 9 p.m., "Twisted," starring **Ashley Judd**, **Samuel L. Jackson** and **Andy Garcia**; **Philip Kaufman** directs.

'Wire in the Blood II'

ON HALLMARK Channel, the home-chilling thriller, "Wire in the Blood II," airs every Sunday at 10:35 p.m., until Sept. 25. The limited series reunites topnotch psychologist Tony Hill and Detective Inspector Carol Jordan as they follow a serial killer's bloody trail and try to anticipate his next terrifying move.

'The Long Weekend'

IN THE CURRENT film "The Long Weekend," **Chris Klein** plays a babe magnet who tries to get his overworked brother (**Brendan Fehr**) laid. The reluctant sibling finds himself getting hooked up with single mothers, strippers and even desperate older women, with each encounter yielding disastrous results. He's resigned to losing his job and his virility—until he spots the woman of his dreams.

'Twists of Fate'

ON THE FOURTH anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, "CNN Presents" profiles people whose lives changed in dramatic and inspiring ways. They include flight attendant **Elise O'Kane**, who escaped death because she signed up for a wrong flight. Instead, **Robert Fangman** died on the United Airlines flight that crashed into the south tower of the World Trade Center.

And **Lisa Dolan**, who lost her husband **Bob** when a plane struck the Pentagon. Lisa and her two children found an unexpected source of solace in—therapy dogs!

"Twists of Fate" airs at 12 noon and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Caridad

From page A3-1

WITH daughter Cathy and granddaughter Pia

IN "Casa Grande" (third from right)

WITH Gil de Leon in "Dandansoy"

After four years in LVN, Caridad moved to Lea, where she stayed for a decade—starring in a slew of memorable movies, including "Maruja" and her Lino Brocka hits, "Wanted: Perfect Mother," "Stardoom" and "Santiago."

For that last one, she earned her first Best Actress award from the prestigious Citizens' Council for Mass Media in 1971.

"I was only aiming for Best Supporting Actress, but I won Best Principal Actress for playing an insane woman," she says.

A year later, she was bestowed with the Best Supporting Actress trophy by the same award-giving body for the sitcom, "Wala Kang Paki."

Although she was a much-sought-after character actress on the big screen, she also made her mark on the small screen—most notably in the 1978 revival of "Gulong ng Palad," where she portrayed Aling Idad, the long-suffering mother of Luisa and Peping (Marianne de la Riva and Romnick Sarmenta, respectively).

"Marcial Sanson was great in drama, music and direction," she asserts. "That's why 'Gulong' was a big hit among the A-B-C-D crowds!"

She said she couldn't join the latest edition of "Gulong ng Palad" on ABS-CBN because she is currently committed to "Darna" on GMA 7.

In any case, she's more than preoccupied shuttling between the movie and television worlds, to fret about the raging network wars.

Her latest film, "Panaghoy sa Suba," proved to be a poignant homecoming to Cebuano cinema.

In a lot of ways, she has come full circle.

"At first, I was hesitant because people might laugh at my Bisaya," she shares. "[The film's producer-director-lead actor] Cesar Montano convinced me to accept it, though."

True to form, she set some ground rules before signing the dotted line.

"I insisted on speaking Cebuano Bisaya, not Boholano Bisaya," Caridad attests. "I always corrected my lines on the set. We Cebuanos are very particular about that."

But of course.

WITH Nida Blanca

IN BROCKA'S "Ano ang Kulay ng Mukha ng Diyos?" with Katrin Gonzales

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Lea to sing for urgent cause; 'Da Vinci Code' fans can't wait to crack film version

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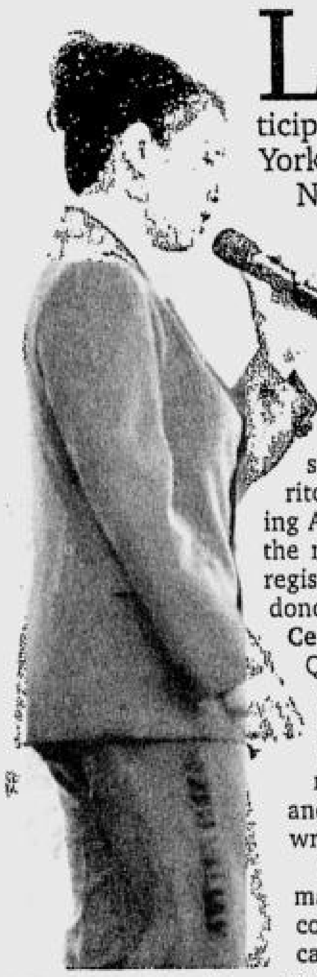

LEA SALONGA will perform in the same venue as Frank Sinatra.

LOS ANGELES—BEfore **Lea Salonga** makes her much-anticipated debut at New York's Carnegie Hall in November, she will perform in the West Coast to help raise awareness for Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M).

The Philippines' pride stars in a concert at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 23 to spotlight the need for more Filipinos to register as potential marrow donors for patients like **Trisha Cendana**, a 12-year-old girl in Quezon City who urgently needs a bone marrow transplant. A3M, which is based in LA, is working to find a marrow match for Trisha and a US hospital to underwrite her care.

When we asked Lea via e-mail if she was even more committed to help A3M because of its quick reaction to embrace the cause of a Filipino child, she replied, "It makes me realize how many people [both children and adults] need help. There are families who go through a kind of desperation wanting to save their loved ones. I know of people who have fought cancer. It's not just the patient that fights—the family fights right alongside them. It's important that the community gets involved. Who knows, [the next victim could be] one's own family. I just found out that one of my best friends in Manila is a former office mate of Trisha's mother. So, it hits closer than we all think."

GOOD guy Tom Hanks wins over bad boy Russell Crowe for Robert Langdon role.

Trisha's plight came to the attention of A3M through Alpha Phi Omega International, of which her father, Bong, is a member.

Lea confirmed that it would be her first time to perform at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, which is located in a suburb in the LA County area. Famous artists have done shows there, from the late **Frank Sinatra** to **Whitney Houston** to the Royal Shakespeare Company. In 1997, we watched **Kuh Ledesma** at Cerritos Center in one of her best LA performances.

"I've heard nothing but great things about the venue," Lea gushed. "I'm really looking forward to the show."

On a lighter note, we asked the Tony and Laurence Olivier Award-winning performer this question: If you were a teenager growing up in this era of reality series contests, would you have joined "American Idol" or any of its equivalents in the Philippines?

"I don't know," she answered. "It just isn't in my personality to do that!"

When we inquired if she planned to see the Broadway musical "Lennon" and if she had met Quezon City native and "Miss Saigon" alumna **Julie Danao-Salkin**, who plays **Yoko Ono**, Lea declared, "I'd love to go and see it. Oh, regarding Julie Danao-Salkin, we met in Boston while shopping at The Gap!" Lea said Julie's "Rent" cast mate **Cristina Ablaza**, with whom she did "Miss Saigon" in NY, was also at the store.

As for coaching **KC Concepcion** and **Karel Marquez**, who alternated as Belle in Manila's recent production of "Beauty and the Beast," Lea revealed, "It was a trip. I never thought it would be anything I'd ever do, and it ended up being one of the most fulfilling things I've ever done. It's a different high from performing. I definitely want to do more of it."

We remembered that Lea starred in the Philippines' staging of "Proof," so we told her that we just saw the movie version (she did the Catherine role, which **Gwyneth Paltrow** essayed in a London stage production and, now, onscreen as well). "I am looking forward to seeing the film," Lea shared. "I've actually forgotten much of the dialogue so everything will be like new. I saw the Broadway production with **Mary Louise**

LEA/ A4-4

THE CONSTANT GARDENER:
Posted the Best Per-Theater Average Film in the U.S. last Weekend

Ralph Fiennes and Rachel Weisz star in "The Constant Gardener"

Based on the bestselling novel by British spy novelist John Le Carre. The movie is receiving rave reviews from film critics. Respected film critic Roger Ebert of Chicago Sun Times calls it "One of the Best Films of 2005". For film reviews log on to www.ROTTENTOMATOES.com.

Focus, a division of Universal Pictures, found a solid turnout for this action - thriller "The Constant Gardner" which easily posted the best per-theater average of any film in wide release last weekend. The film generated $11M from only 1,346 locations. Averaging a powerful $8,144 per theater.

With no good films opening this weekend in the US, a mild decline to around $6M could result leaving the Ralph Fiennes/Rachel Weisz film with a staggering $20M after 12 days.

The film opens with Tessa being murdered (*Constantine's Rachel Weisz*) in Nairobi . Her diplomat husband Justin (*Maid in Manhattan's Ralph Fiennes*) rouses himself from his peaceful existence and starts unraveling the threads that led to her death. His journey to find the killers of his pregnant wife will take him around the world - Italy, Spain, Germany Canada, Sudan, and in the end back to Kenya where the scene of Tessa's death took place.

"The Constant Gardener" is action thriller about a man on the run, chased by his "own" side (Intelligence and the Foreign Office) as well as the bad guys who killed his wife.

"The Constant Gardener" offers a real world of economic corruption, bureaucracy, and the abuse of power by the world's rich and powerful.

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A SOUND OF THUNDER:
MANKIND'S INEVITABLE EXTINCTION

Futuristic weapons for prehistoric monsters: Catherine McCormack and Edward Burns stars in "A Sound of Thunder"

"A Sound of Thunder" grabs aspects from different films and pay tribute to movie classics. The film plays like "*Jurassic Park*" meets "*War of the Worlds*" meets "*The Butterfly Effect*" meets "*Alien*" meets "*The Brothers McMullen*".

Warner Bros.' **"A Sound of Thunder"** cost more than $100 million to produce and writers Thomas Donnelly, Joshua Oppenheimer and Gregory Poirier adapted acclaimed sci-fi writer **Ray Bradbury**'s story for the screen, and the resulting film is an interesting cautionary tale about the danger of messing with the natural order of things, which could be taken as a metaphor for global warming or cloning.

"A Sound of Thunder" opens in the year 2055 in downtown Chicago. The world is out of control and changing. The changes come in waves. They start small, affecting the atmosphere and lower life forms first, then move rapidly up the food chain with each subsequent pass. Within months dramatic transformations appear throughout the city, spurring residents from curiosity to growing alarm and finally panic.

Thousands of giant snake-like fishes appear on the Lake Michigan shore. Strange plant life grows to monstrous proportions as if reclaiming some ancient tropical territory, bursting through the pavement with great sinuous roots, overturning cars in the street and engulfing entire buildings from inside and out. Then come the insects, fast-moving voracious organisms resembling giant roaches and locusts, streaming over everything in deadly hordes.

Species of giant carnivorous creatures suddenly emerge, in reptilian form, with rapier reflexes and surprisingly intelligent features, darkening the sky and running rampant through an increasingly hostile and terrifying landscape. Humans are no longer on top of the food chain and the extinction of the human race is inevitable.

With the help of Oscar-winning visual effects supervisor **Tim McGovern**, director **Peter Hyams** (who directed Arnold Schwarzenegger's best movie "*End of Days*") powerfully delivers his vision of some of the more calamitous possibilities posed by Bradbury's cautionary tale – a task that involved his overseeing nearly 900 individual effects shots at every stage of production.

FEARSOME CREATURES

Perhaps the job most creatively challenging was imagining what kinds of creatures might have developed if evolution had taken a divergent path 65 millions years ago – and bringing them to life.

"*...and you've not lived until you've seen the amazing baboon-tyrannosaurs*" says Hyams, "*These are the most visually stunning monsters to come along in ages. The mutated giant bats, cockroaches, beetles streaming amok in the city are sights to behold*" he adds. "*The objective was accuracy. We made these hideous creatures as close as possible to reality, since extensive data on these beasts do exist.*"

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3	SKY HIGH	1:20, 3:45, 6:10 8:35, 11:00	GP
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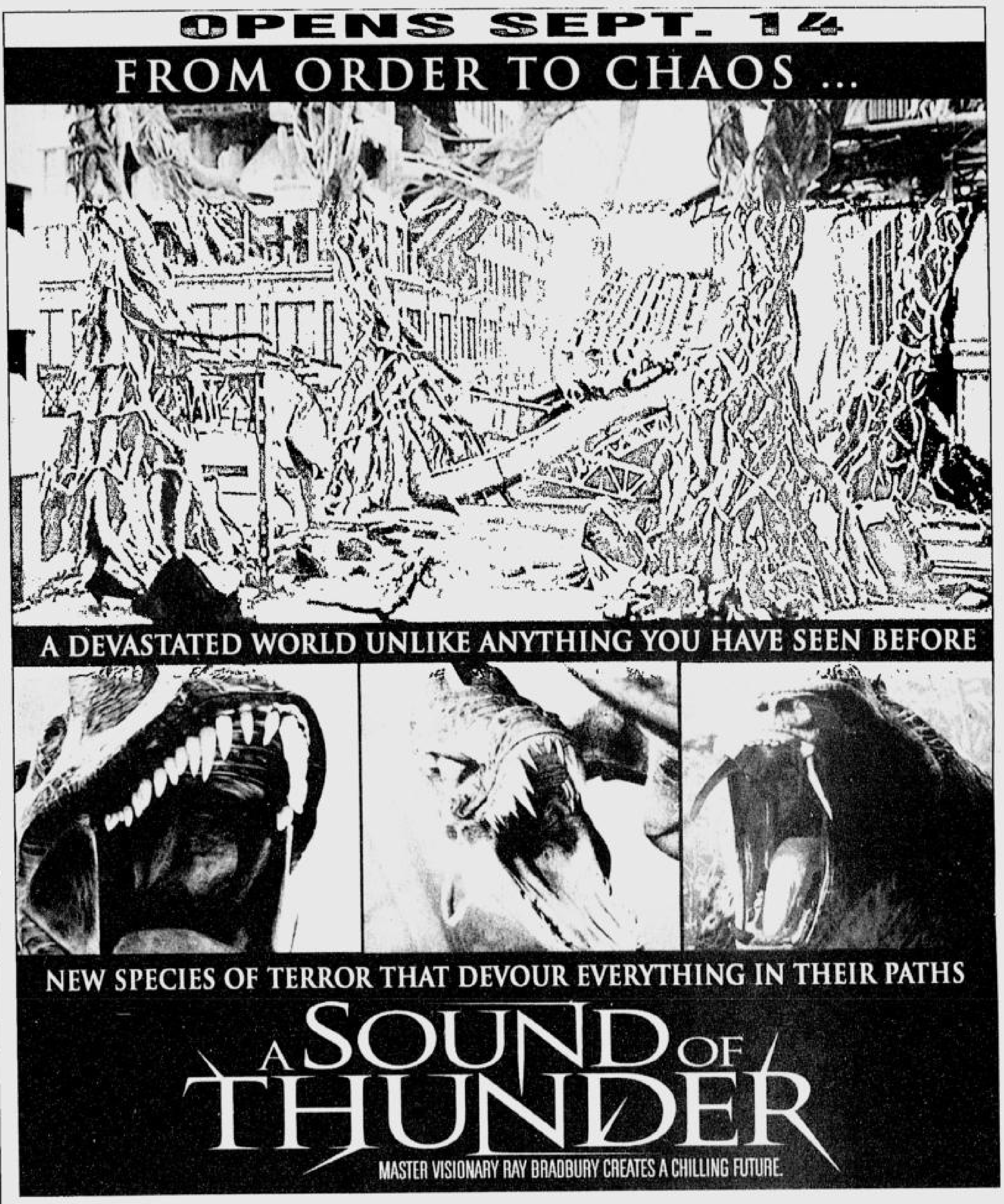
RED EYE PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00	THE CAVE PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50,8:00,10:10	THE BROTHERS GRIMM PG13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30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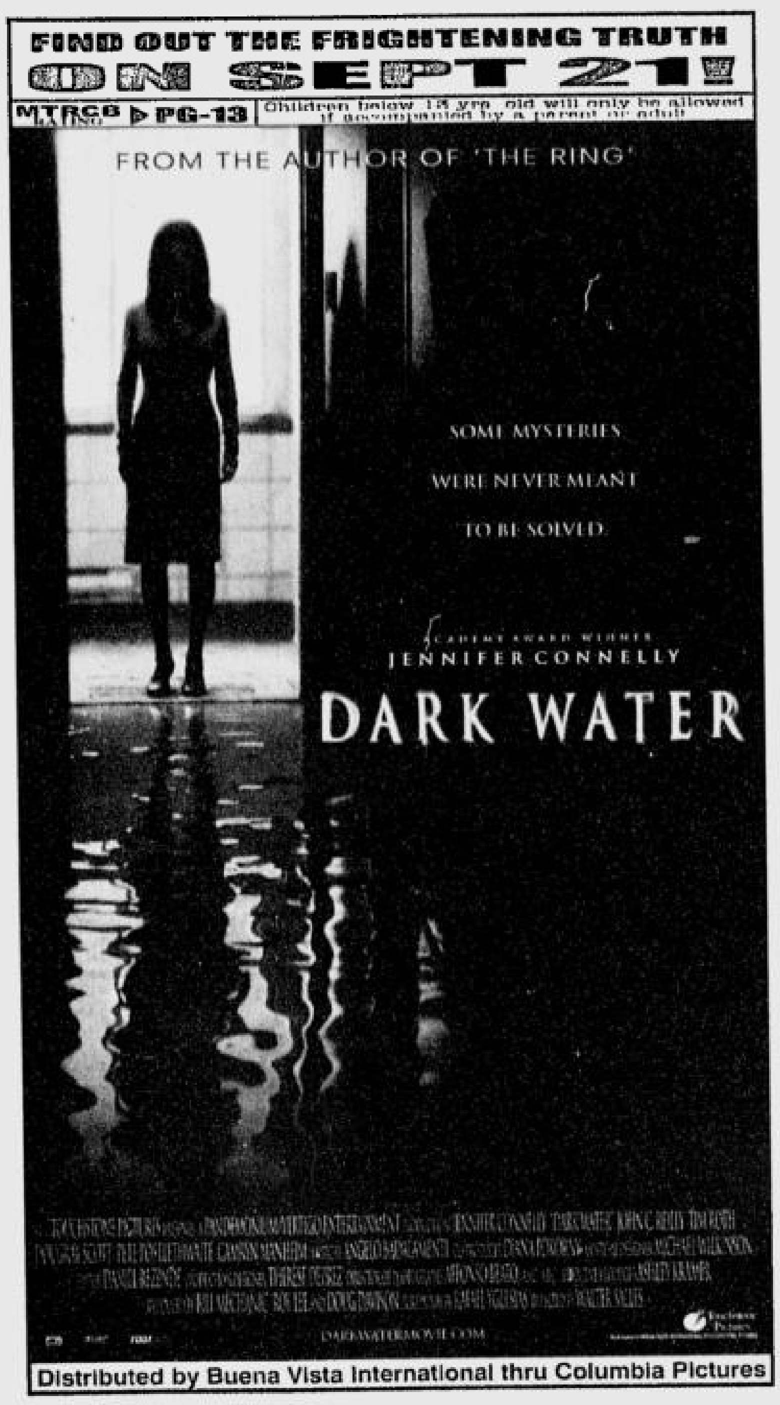

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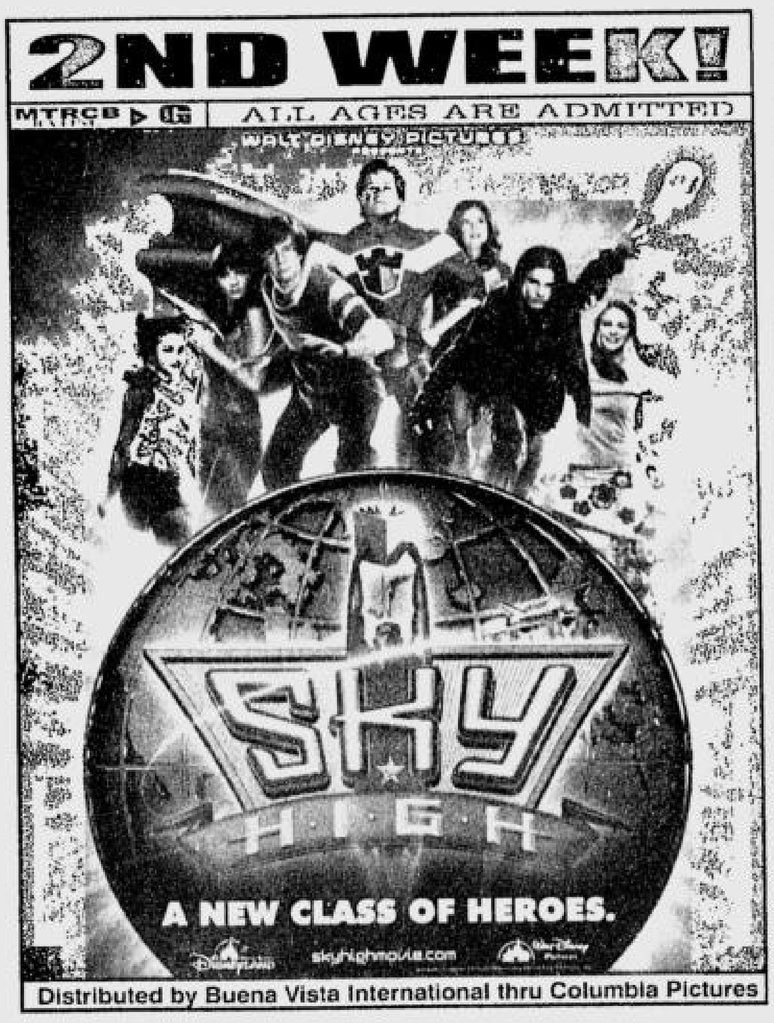

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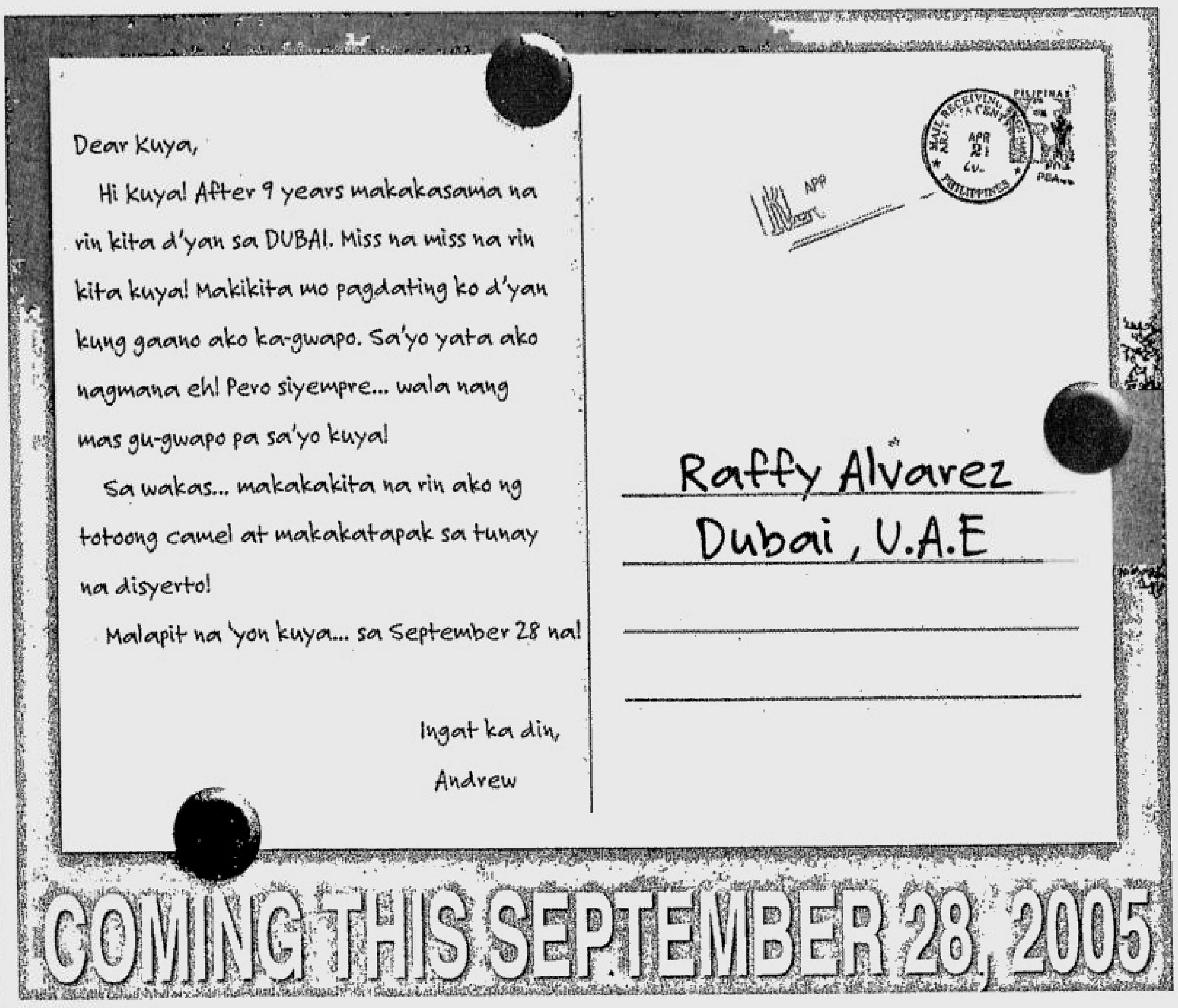

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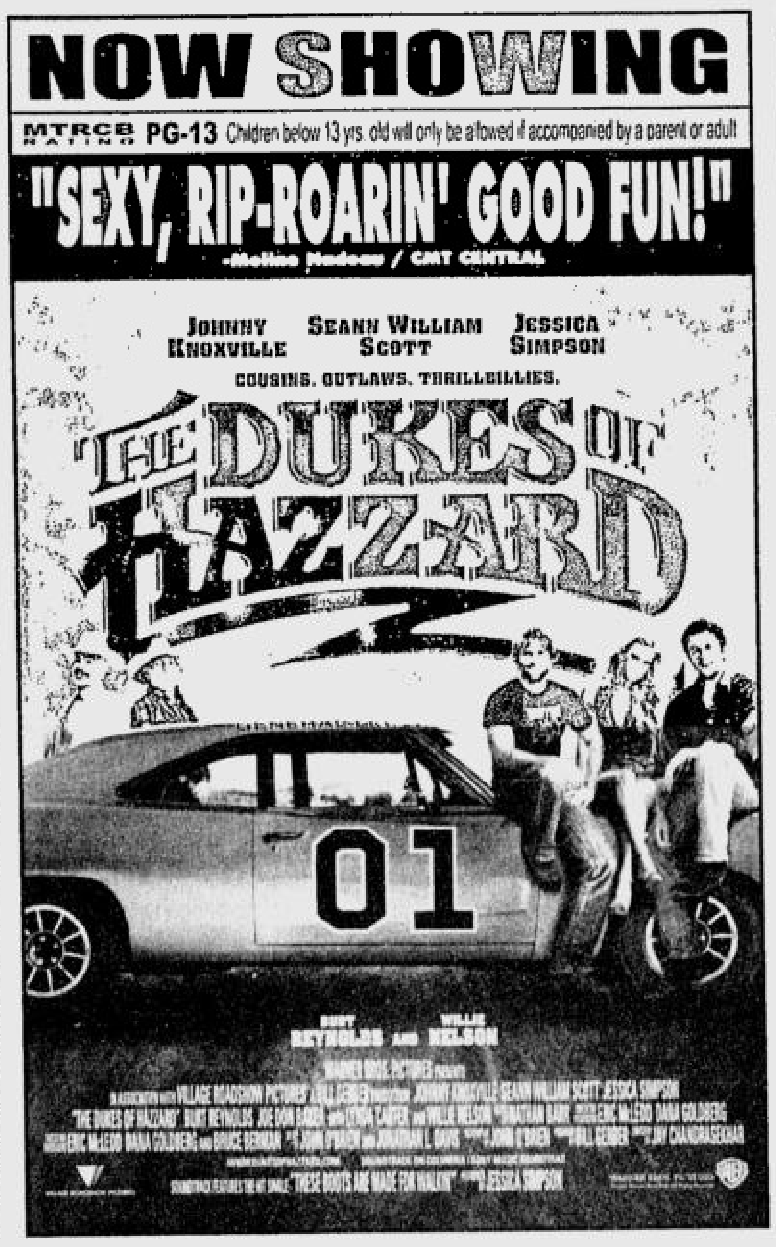

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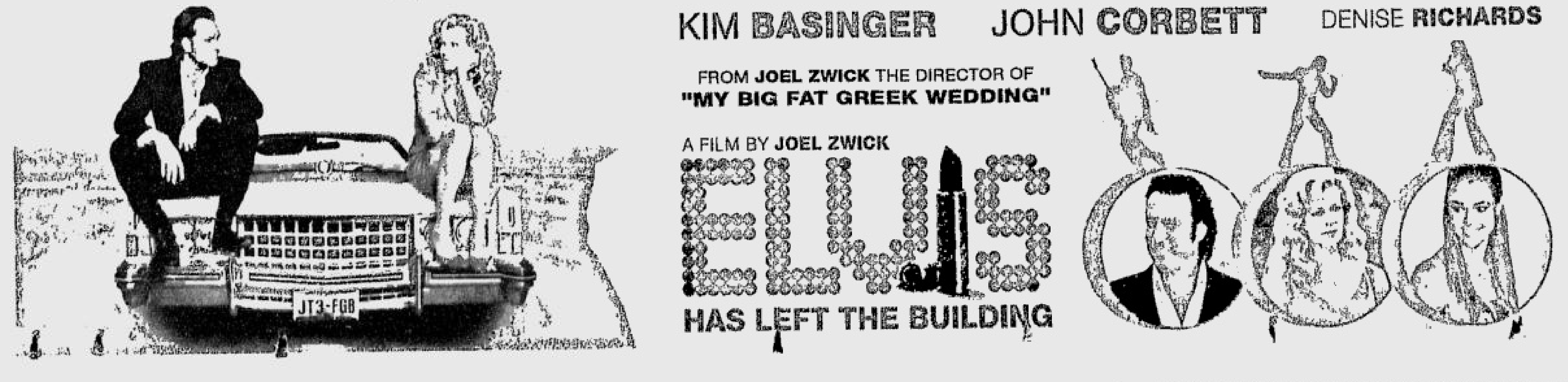

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Lea to sing for urgent cause; 'Da Vinci Code' fans can't wait to crack film version

From page A4-1

Parker before we staged it in Manila."

We asked belatedly how she spent her first wedding anniversary with **Robert Chien** and how married life was so far. She obliged with, "We just had a simple quiet dinner in the Brentwood area (in West LA). Nothing fancy. And married life is wonderful."

At the time of our e-mail interview, Lea was in Manila getting ready to do a show in the spanking new Hong Kong Disneyland. "Awesome!" was her description of the theme park which she toured several weeks earlier.

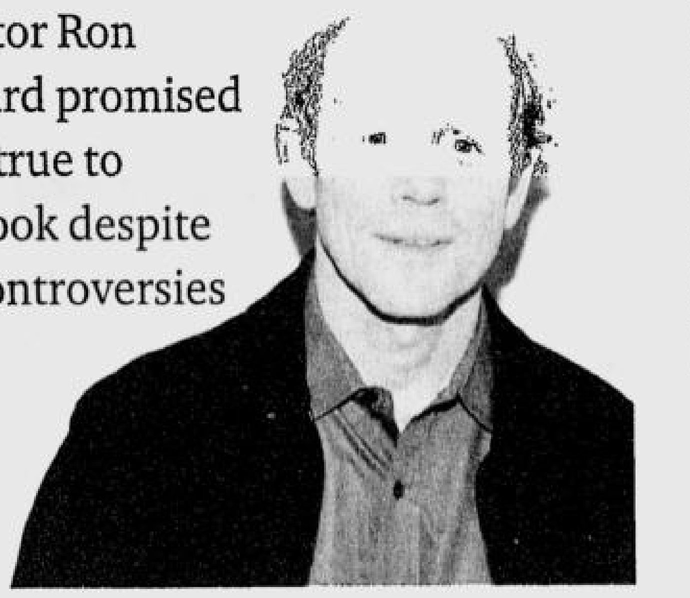
What else is on the horizon? "There's Carnegie Hall on Nov. 7 and a concert in Cebu on Dec. 9. Beyond that, I'm counting on having a very merry Christmas with my family and friends."

Ticket information for Lea's Cerritos Center concert is available at (888) 2364673, (800) 3004345, www.asianmarrow.org and www.cerritoscenter.com.

Staying cool

There was a time when you couldn't board a plane without noticing that most of the passengers were reading **Dan Brown's** bestseller, "The Da Vinci Code." With the high expectations of the book's fans for the movie version, I wouldn't want to be in director **Ron Howard's** shoes. But having seen Ron at interviews, I'm sure he's staying cool right now as he shoots in Europe, trying not to mind the pressure from "The Da Vinci Code" readers all over the world to "get the book right."

When we interviewed Ron last May for "Cinderella Man," we managed to ask him some questions about "Da Vinci." The Oscar Best Director awardee for "A Beautiful Mind" explained the book's appeal to him: "I'm very interested in its range of themes. It's intriguing on a lot of levels. It's the kind of fiction that provokes thought, conversation and debate. The book did that for me when I read it. I felt that it was quite unusual for a story to have many ideas working in one plot line. I was intrigued by those ideas. That's why I chose to make the film."



Director Ron Howard promised to be true to the book despite the controversies

Asked to explain the book's phenomenal success (25 million copies sold in over 40 languages), the sometime actor best known for the TV series "Happy Days" said, "Different people relate to the novel for various personal reasons. Some are interested in the spirituality, others in the locations. A lot of people get a lot of different things from it."

Ron promised to be true to the book, even if some of its elements are controversial, especially among the Christian community. "The film is not going to be a reinvention of the novel," he assured. "It's a faithful screen adaptation of 'The Da Vinci Code.'"

"Da Vinci" fanatics know that Paris' Louvre, where a murder in the book takes place and which launches the story's series of thrilling events, has allowed filming in its premises while Britain's Westminster Abbey, one of the story's settings, refused to open its doors to Ron's cast and crew. The official reason given was that the book "is theologically unsound." The Lincoln Cathedral in London subbed for Westminster Abbey.

Russell Crowe, who earned an Oscar Best Actor nomination under Ron's direction in "A Beautiful Mind," was reportedly seriously considered for the lead part in "Da Vinci," Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon. But **Tom Hanks** won the part. **Audrey Tautou** ("Amelie" and "A Very Long Engagement") bagged the role of cryptologist Sophie Neveu in the cult thriller.

Ian McKellen (Sir Ian in real life, he plays Sir Leigh Teabing), **Alfred Molina** (as the zealous Bishop Aringarosa), **Paul Bettany** (as Silas) and **Jean Reno** (as Bezu Fache) round out the cast.

One fine film

Going back to "Cinderella Man," this is a fine film that might have fared better at the US box-office if it was released during the fall season, when the pang-award films are usually released. Instead, "Cinderella Man" was released at the start of summer, considered the popcorn season in America.

I recommend "Cinderella Man," which is based on the true story of **Jim Braddock** (played by Russell), a boxer who lost it all in the Depression. Although there have been several recent films that show boxing scenes very realistically, "Cinderella" boasts some of the most gripping ringside scenes. But at its core, "Cinderella" tells the love story of Braddock and his wife, played by **Renee Zellweger**.

Still on Russell, the fighter onscreen and in real life, news stories report that the actor has settled a civil lawsuit filed by **Nestor Estrada**, the hotel clerk he allegedly hit with a telephone. Estrada is reportedly $100,000 richer.

But the terrific actor (he and **Paul Giamatti** turn in outstanding performances in "Cinderella") could still end up in jail. Criminal charges are still pending against him. For sure, the Aussie can't say "whatever" (the dismissive put-down Estrada reportedly uttered to Russell after the latter complained that he can't place a call to Australia). Because if he is convicted, Russell faces up to seven years in prison. We wish Russell a fair and speedy trial in court. If he does end up in jail, that prison's warden better improve the telephone service.

Both Russell and Renee had high praises for Ron, their "Cinderella" director. When we interviewed Russell, also in May, we reported (PDI, May 29) how he showed his mercurial side and yet he talked openly and lovingly about his child, Charlie ("We do a version of yoga together"), and his marriage to singer-actress **Danielle Spencer** ("The cuddles get more intense").

Our press con with Renee, on the other hand, was her very first one after her surprise wedding to country music star **Kenny Chesney**. We wrote (PDI, May 27) about how emotional and giddily happy Renee was as she talked to us about her life and future with her new husband.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

A [illegible] Emmanuel V. de Ocampo (right) with Col. Mariano L. Duena, taken April 1945 in Luzon.

Filipino heroes abound

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

GUERRILLAS LIKE PHILIPpine Veterans Bank chair Emmanuel V. de Ocampo cannot help but feel let down when they look into the pages of a book on Philippine history.

For while chapter upon chapter is devoted to the military exploits of the American forces led by General Douglas "I Shall Return" MacArthur during the Japanese occupation, only a few words are used to describe the gallant efforts of young Filipino men and women who stood up to defend their country over 60 years ago.

Which is a shame, the 82-year-old De Ocampo tells INQUIRER, for those moments when Filipinos showed what they were really made of were certainly for the books.

One of those moments came in January 1942 when a band of some 300 cadets from the Philippine Military Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps, who were too young to be drafted into service, met in a safehouse in San Juan del Monte, Rizal and decided they would fight their own battles against the Japanese invaders.

They called themselves the Hunters ROTC.

The ragtag group was headed by Miguel Ver, a second year cadet at the PMA who used what little military background he had to organize the group into battalions.

Groups were also fanned out to either look for weapons, scout for campsites and build up food reserves.

De Ocampo recalled that they all spoke in English, as it was the only way for these teenagers from such provinces as Ilocos, Bicol, Negros and Cebu to understand each other.

He also recalled the many missteps that the Hunters made during their early months.

The first campsite chosen in Antipolo, for instance, can be clearly seen from up the road—making them sitting ducks.

The second one was so close to the barrios that many of the locals started dropping in to see how the guerillas were doing.

But the first serious blow to the fledgling Hunters came when news broke that the American and Filipino forces lost in Corregidor and Bataan and that MacArthur had fled to Australia.

"We really got affected by that news," De Ocampo said. "There was some sense of fear, but we said, we will continue the fight. We did not want the Japanese in our country."

Preparations continued with a heightened sense of urgency. Arms smuggling pressed on, along with training and recruitment under the noses of the Japanese soldiers.

But in July 1942, two of the Hunters who have not yet been properly oriented in the methods of war were caught by Japanese spies.

PHILIPPINE Veterans Bank chair Col. Emmanuel de Ocampo

Beaten, they guided Japanese soldiers back to the guerilla camp in the hills of Antipolo.

The Hunters were caught by surprise and, in the ensuing battle, Ver died. But not before directing the rest to retreat and take as many of their smuggled arms with them to fight another day.

"That was the first time that we were engaged in a real battle," De Ocampo said. "I ran with four heavy rifles. Two slung on each arm."

Two more died before the rest made a successful retreat to a designated alternative camp, also in Rizal.

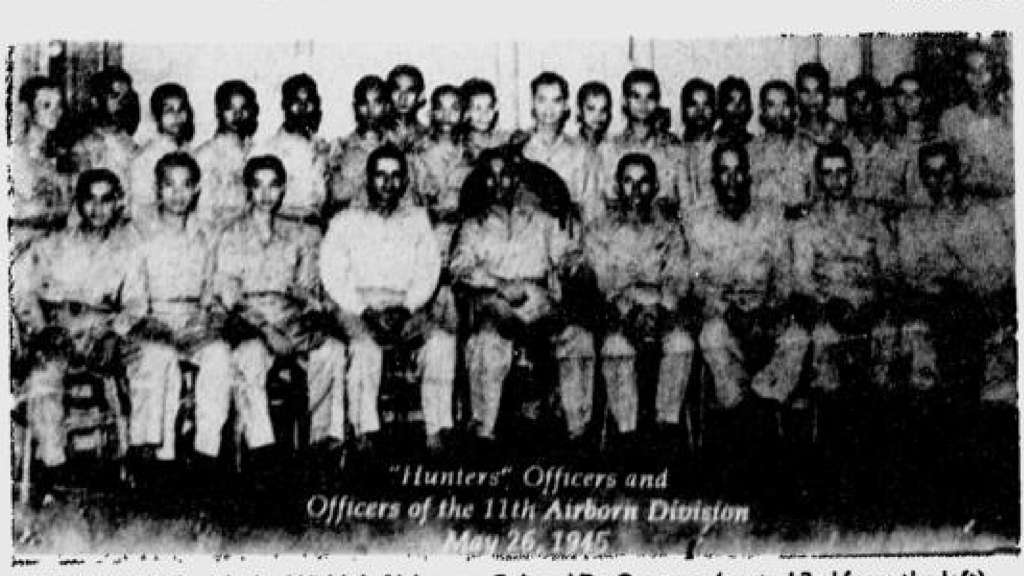
The Hunters who survived were left with a profound sense of loss with the death of Ver. But the defeat made them realize that they had no hope of winning against the Japanese if they relied on conventional warfare tactics.

Although outmanned and outgunned, the guerillas felt they could outwit the Japanese.

This they did by getting their hands on books on warfare, such as Edgar Snow's "Red Star of China," which was serialized in the Philippine Free Press, and T.E. Lawrence's "7 Pillars of Wisdom."

Organization, supply, mobility and econo-

FILIPINO/ B4


"Hunters" Officers and
Officers of the 11th Airborn Division

THE HUNTERS with the US 11th Airborne. Colonel De Ocampo (seated 3rd from the left)

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Ex-laborer earned first million at 26

By Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

TARLAC CITY—One does not need money to start a business.

This, at least, was the experience of 33-year-old entrepreneur Ernesto Villafaña Jr., whose timely foray into the purified water industry in the early 1990s gave him his first million at 26.

"*Laway lang ang puhunan ko* (Talk was my sole capital)," he tells the INQUIRER at the second floor balcony of his parents' six-room house in Barangay Balingcanaway here.

The family house is a testament to Villafaña's rise from a poor farmer's son to a successful businessman.

In 1990, Villafaña left Tarlac State University, where he had been studying for a bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, and entered the Christ the King Seminary in Quezon City.

While at the seminary, he kept on thinking about his family back home. He felt guilty about his inability to do anything to ease his parents' and five siblings' financial difficulties.

In less than six months, he quit the seminary and looked for a job.

Along the way, too, he renewed his friendship with the then 19-year-old La Consolacion College student, Luisa Chong, who became his wife in 1991.

Married at 20 but with neither a college diploma nor any particular trade skill to bank on, Villafaña became even more terrified about the future.

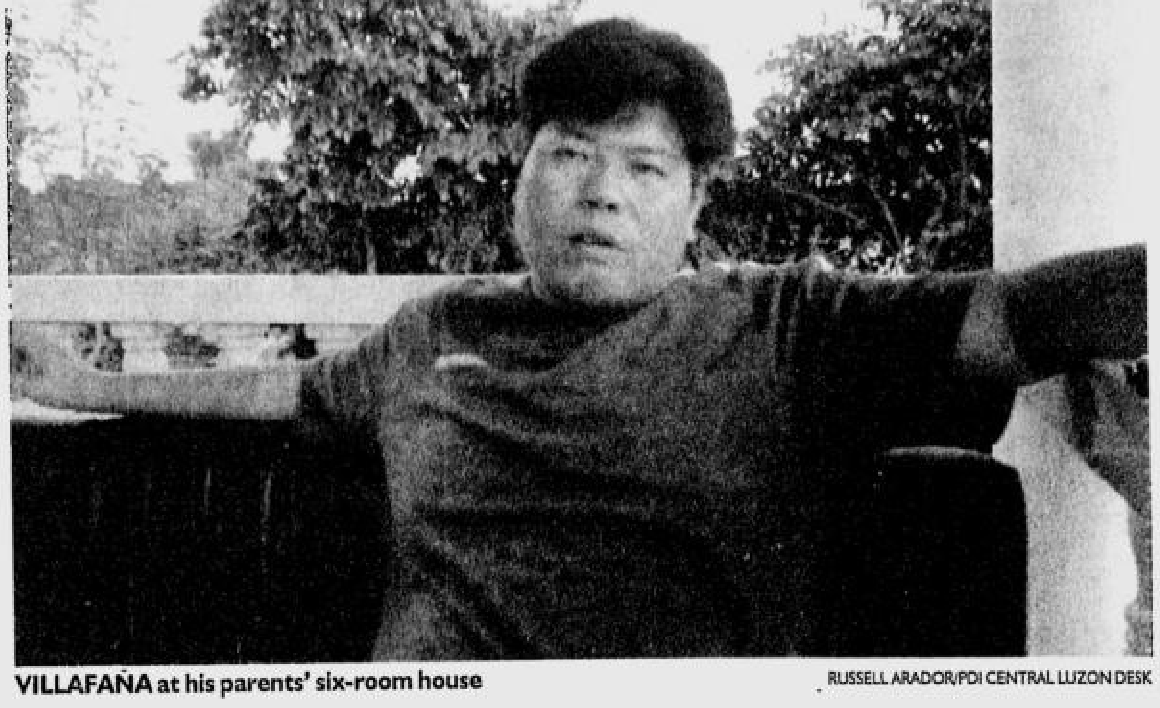
He applied for a job as a factory worker in Taiwan and promptly lost his parents' savings to an illegal recruiter.

He decided to leave the big city and bring his wife to Tarlac, where he began backbreaking work as a laborer in a construction project that earned him P50 a day.

Later, his mother-in-law offered him a job at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) as helper-electrician. At P180 a day, it was a godsend.

To augment his income, he

EX-LABORER/ B4



VILLAFAÑA at his parents' six-room house

RUSSELL ARADOR/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

Sony Life

Wanted: New Directors of P1 Billion Capital Corp.

Eric Hernandez. MIT graduate. Former VP of a chemical firm. 33. Now with Sony Life to give something back to society.
William Dy. 40. Product of UST. Fomer AVP of a leading IT firm. Strong advocate of Sony Life's Financial Needs Analysis system.
Noel De Leon. 38. UP State Scholar. Seasoned Entrepreneur. Staunch believer of Sony Life's mission, long-term commitment and distinct selling method.
Celso Magcalas. La Sallian. Acomplished Businessman at 39. Exhibits his entrepreneurial spirit with Sony Life's unique needs-based sales approach.
Ted Tinsay. 33. Single and Successful. Die-hard Atenean. Former hot-shot stock broker. Now a go-getter of Sony Life, with a passion to achieve more.
Joel Marc Cairo. 39. University of San Carlos graduate. High IQ Society member. Former high-stakes trader. Joined Sony Life to fulfill the mission.
Cynthia Miravite. UP Statistics major. Former top-notch banker. Capitalizes on Sony Life's financial strength.
Jose Antonio Mijares. Veteran Hotelier. UP Alumnus. Proud father of three. 45 years old and still with a passion to greatly contribute to society through Sony Life.

"We, the Agency Directors of Sony Life Philippines, come from different backgrounds and industries. Yet, we have one common virtue – we were all inexperienced in selling life insurance before joining Sony Life, a 100% subsidiary of SONY. Backed by P1 Billion capital, we now gallantly stand by Sony Life's mission to provide financial security and stability to more and more Filipino families. With our unique need-based consulting approach, we take pride in leading a professional sales force truly committed to make a difference in people's lives."

Position:	Agency Director
Qualifications:	NO life insurance sales experience Graduate of top university 27 – 45 years old Earning at least PhP 50,000 a month Strong management and recruitment skills Strong sales background With at least 3 social organizations
Training:	1 month paid classroom training Continuous daily monitoring
Selection:	7-step rigid but rewarding process
1st step:	Send your comprehensive resume to: Sony Life Insurance (Philippines) Corporation 35th Floor, PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino Street, 1226 Makati City, Philippines Telephone 819-6001; Fax 819-1802 to 1804 E-mail at marketing@sonylife.com.ph

Kumon offers Free Trial classes this September

This month, parents can avail of Free Trial classes for their children at Kumon centers in their area. From September 16 to 30, kids can study Kumon and acquire the discipline of studying daily.

The two-week Free Trial period is an opportunity to experience the Kumon program, to master the foundational skills in calculation or reading comprehension and develop the habit of regular study.

Before the child starts with the Free Trial, the Kumon instructor gives the parent a thorough orientation on the Kumon Method and its benefits. The child is then given a Diagnostic Exam. This test is not for qualifying purposes but rather a basis for assessment of what skills he already has and which level is most appropriate for him to start at.

The student goes to the center twice a week and spends 45 minutes to an hour per session. He is given worksheets that contain exercises suited to his capabilities. The instructor discusses with him his study goal and evaluates his work for the day. Before he leaves the center, he is given homework for each day that he will not be reporting to the center. He will submit these to the instructor on his next class and work on a new set when he returns to his Kumon center.

It sounds so simple but what makes Kumon so special is the fact that the program is built on the belief that every child has an unlimited potential and that he has the ability to learn independently.

The Kumon worksheets are designed in such a way that the child can learn on his own. There are adequate examples that will guide him in tackling new topics. The exercises also gradually increase in difficulty and help facilitate a smooth learning process for each student. At the beginning of each level, there is also a review of the previous lessons to help solidify the skills he has just mastered.

The child is also trained to set goals for himself. He can aim to finish his worksheets for the day in a specific number of minutes and aim to do his work perfectly. He can also aim to finish a level in a number of weeks or months. His targets, whether daily, weekly, or monthly, help train him into a responsible individual with determination and independence.

The models featured in the Free Trial advertisements are all actual Kumon students. Nicholas Matthew Villareal, Sabino Josemaria Padilla and Katrina Isabel Elicaño are students who are enjoying the maximum benefits of the Kumon Method. They have gained the independence, discipline, focus and determination through their training in Kumon. They have also become confident and persevering individuals who have the desire to learn new things and face bigger challenges on their own.

After the two-week Free Trial, parents may officially enroll their child in Kumon starting October. For more information on the Kumon Method or the Free Trial classes, please call 885-0226.

Building the nation through quality education

153 Kumon centers nationwide and still counting

The Kumon program is present in Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao through its 153 franchise centers. There are Kumon centers as far north as Laoag, Vigan and Tuguegarao and as far south as General Santos, Davao and Zamboa nga.

Every month, more and more are attending the Kumon Franchise Orientation to learn about this unique educational method and, at the same time, find out how they can offer Kumon in their area.

Kumon is not like any other franchise. Kumon is a means to reach out to the communities by developing the children in the area into responsible and competent individuals through equipping them with the necessary skills in calculation and reading comprehension. Opening a Kumon center means being at the frontline in raising tomorrow's leaders. With the skills a child gains in Kumon, he can become capable to influence others and bring about positive change to his community.

Kumon cannot also be categorized as any other learning method. It is not a tutorial nor a remedial program that answers the short-term needs of a child. It is a long-term program with long-term benefits. It provides the appropriate material that will give him the necessary foundational skills in Math and Reading and train him thoroughly in crucial topics that he will need to master. It develops self-motivated learning and a desire to acquire knowledge on new challenging topics.

Kumon is offered in over 40 countries worldwide with more than 3 million students. It started with a high school teacher in Japan whose concern for his son's education led him to study how he can help him learn Mathematics the best way. Mr. Toru Kumon created Math worksheets for his son Takeshi everyday and designed them in a logical structure that included what is crucial and necessary for his son to learn. Because of this training, Takeshi reached Differential and Integral Calculus when he was in the sixth grade. Mr. Kumon started to offer the same learning method to children in his community. The Kumon Method eventually branched out to different countries. Kumon Philippines started out in 1996.

More and more people join the ranks of Kumon instructors because of the impact that a Kumon center can have on a community. They are educators who do not only provide calculation and comprehension skills to children but invaluable qualities, as well, such as confidence, discipline and perseverance.

Kumon believes that education is the best way to contribute in building the nation. By equipping young people with the necessary skills to face challenges on their own, Kumon is developing the future leaders in their field and in their community.

A unique learning method for today's society

We are now living in a knowledge-based society. Today's demands require each individual to be competent and capable. The Kumon Method of Learning is up to the task of developing children into able, knowledgeable and skilled individuals who can be the best in their chosen field. It is not a method that uses advanced technology or unexplainable techniques. The secret is no secret…it lies within the potential of the child.

Indeed, believing in the potential of the child and knowing how to tap it is the true feature of this individualized method. The materials are based on the child's ability and learning pace.

You might ask the following questions…

Who is it for? What is the age range?

Kumon caters to children of different ages and abilities. As early as when the child is already capable of holding a pencil and sitting down for at least 15 minutes, he can already be enrolled in the program. Adults have also tried Kumon and have found it to be very helpful.

Does 'individualized' mean one-on-one?

'Individualized' does not mean that there is one teacher for every one student. The program is individualized because there is an appropriate material for every student. The lessons that are given to a student are not based on his age or grade level but rather on his capability and the pace that is comfortable for him.

How often are the sessions and how long are they?

Students go to the Kumon center twice a week on regular scheduled times based on their availability. The sessions last for about 30-45 minutes per center visit. For the days when the child is not scheduled to go to the center, he will be given home works, which he will submit, to the instructor on his next center visit.

Why are there home works and why is it everyday?

Kumon believes that, through daily study, children will develop good study habits and will be able to learn the material better because of the daily practice. This is why students are required to do their homework also.

Is it a summer program like piano, ballet or karate?

Kumon is a long-term program and is, therefore, not only for the summer. The benefits a student will gain will not only come from a few months' work but from the patience and discipline developed over a longer period of time.

Is it a tutorial?

Tutorials aim at satisfying the current academic need of a child. Kumon, however, zeroes in on the root cause of the problem and starts the child at a level most comfortable for him.

Through a diagnostic test given before enrollment, the instructor is able to determine the level where the student will be most comfortable in. This is called the Easy Starting Point. This refers to the material which he will find quite easy to answer in order for him to gain confidence before he proceeds to more challenging topics.

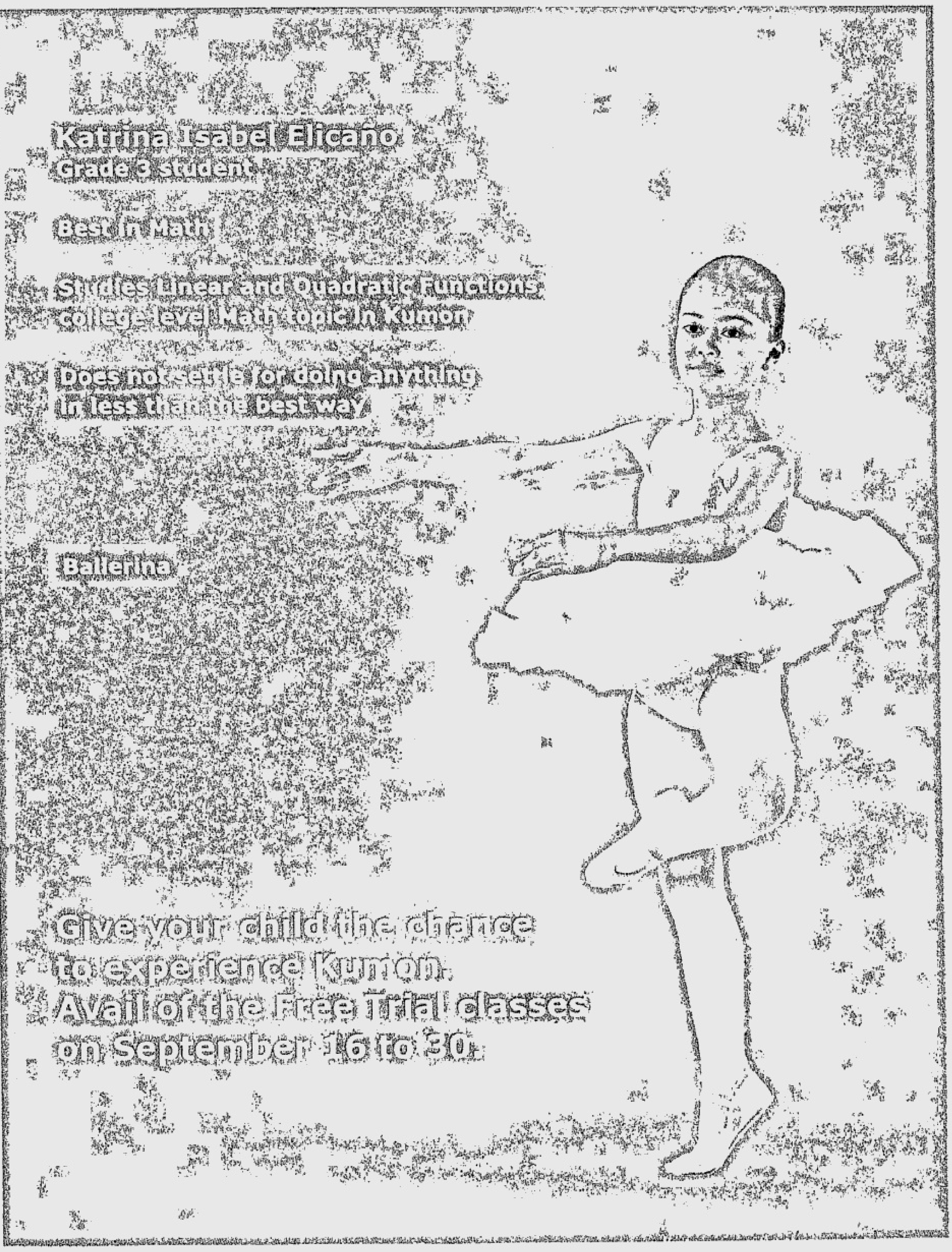
As he does his worksheets, the student aims to hit a perfect mark and tries to finish it within his completion time goal. If the student falls short of his goal, he is given the same set of work for him to accomplish with better results. This is to ensure his mastery of the subject and his readiness to proceed to the next lesson.

The child learns the materials not by assistance from the instructor every step of the way. Instead of spoon-feeding the child, the instructor gives helpful hints only when necessary while still ultimately encouraging the child to do his work independently. The worksheets are designed in minute steps to help the child progress smoothly and learn on his own.

Kumon does not limit what the child can do. Students eventually study lessons they have not tackled in school before and study advanced material. With the goal of doing high school mathematics before reaching high school and developing reading comprehension, students can reach more than what is expected of them and develop skills which will be valuable for them in overcoming challenges.

All the features of the program revolve around the unlocking of the potential of each child. It is the goal of Kumon to develop independent learners who can motivate themselves and set their own goals. With the discipline, good study habits, concentration, self-learning skills and confidence they gain from Kumon, they are bound to be who they want to become.

ADVT.


Katrina Isabel Elicaño
Grade 3 student
Best in Math
Studies Linear and Quadratic Functions
college-level Math topic in Kumon
Does not settle for doing anything
in less than the best way
Ballerina
Give your child the chance
to experience Kumon.
Avail of the Free Trial classes
on September 16 to 30.

The pursuit for excellence. This is the rule by which Kisa does her tasks. Her character has been made stronger and more determined with the help of the Kumon Method. By learning discipline and self-motivation, she has gained the ability to excel not only in the classroom but on the dance floor, as well. If you want to see how your child can reach her full potential just like Kisa, attend a One-Time Parent Orientation between September 1 to 12, 2005 and avail of the Free Trial Classes for your child on September 16 to 30, 2005.

For more information, please call 885-0226.

Kumon Philippines, Inc.
19th floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
tel: 885-0226 to 29 fax: 885-0251
email: inquiries@kumon.com.ph
website: www.kumon.com.ph

KUMON

Japanese resto takes road well-traveled

By Amy R. Remo

IT SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE that one of the most successful chains of Japanese restaurants in the country used to have an identity crisis.

"I wanted to get all the markets back then—people from all social strata levels, young or old, working or not. So I used to copy everything Japanese, even those of my competitors," reveals Grace Sycip Chuachiaco, one of the founders of Kitaro.

Chuachiaco adds that Kitaro used to open one outlet after another, without giving much thought on location.

"We ended up closing and relocating several branches because there was no market for Kitaro in those places," she says.

But it was through these hits and misses, Chuachiaco says, that Kitaro learned hard lessons it needed to survive and earn a place among successful local ventures.

Seven years and almost 40 branches later, Kitaro knows better than to copy and wildly experiment with store locations.

"It dawned to me that we cannot please everyone—we cannot embrace all markets. So I just stopped imitating and looking at competition," says Chuachiaco. "Instead, I focused my energies on providing customers with authentic and quality Japanese cuisine."

Its target market now consists mainly of college students and yuppies, as well as avid fans of Japanese food.

Kitaro, known for serving authentic Japanese cuisine at reasonable prices, now seems a far cry from what it was when it started in 1998.

"The idea came to me and six of my friends from a Bible study group because we wanted to do something else. Plus, our garment business then did not work out," says Chuachiaco.

Chuachiaco says they decided to open a Japanese "to-go" restaurant that served only sushi to provide customers a healthy food option—amid the mushrooming of fast-food places that served everything deep-fried.

Kitaro
japanese to-go

SEVEN years and almost 40 branches later, Kitaro is now ready to try its hand in franchising.

They named it Kitaro, after a Japanese character similar to that of Filipinos' Juan.

Armed with a passion for Japanese food and a know-how in the restaurant business, Chuachiaco and her friends opened in August 1998 the first Kitaro branch at a 30-square-meter hole-in-the-wall outlet in White Plains.

"It was a success—people started to ask right away for more items on the menu," says Chuachiaco. "The response was more than overwhelming."

Chuachiaco says one of the reasons why Kitaro clicked is it made affordable what was then limited to expensive and high-end Japanese restaurants.

"Back then, if you wanted real Japanese food, you would have to shell out a lot of money and go to high-end Japanese restaurants. There was no other alternative," says Chuachiaco.

"Another reason is that we're very hands-on with our operations, especially with quality control and taste-testing," she adds. "We make sure everything that is served is freshly-cooked."

Chuachiaco relates that she even hired the former nutritionist of the family-owned New Tokyo restaurant to ensure that Kitaro serves healthy food.

It was also fortunate that her brother married a Japanese, who trained and taught a lot of Chuachiaco's Filipino cooks about Japanese food.

Its early successes were so encouraging that Kitaro became very aggressive in putting up branches, as well as in granting partnerships to closest friends and relatives.

But these efforts caught the attention of Kitaro's competitors.

Kitaro
japanese to-go

CHUACHIACO in front of Kitaro Glorietta branch

"Others used to be so slow at expanding since there was a limited market for Japanese food. But when they saw Kitaro branches popping up in different places, they started to put up more branches as well," says Chuachiaco.

In terms of number of branches, Kitaro today still leads the pack and can lay claim to being the biggest chain of Japanese "to-go" restaurants.

"But we're more conscious now of where to put up a branch," adds Chuachiaco.

And because of increasing and stiffer competition, Kitaro constantly expands its menu, introducing new dishes at least every quarter.

"We have to. We're growing up so fast and people are expecting more from us," says Chuachiaco.

Kitaro certainly had its share of struggles.

"We had a lot of concerns, especially after we had to close down some of our branches. Should I open? How's the economic situation? Is it worth being this aggressive? Will people still buy from us?" explains Chuachiaco.

And with the country experiencing bouts of economic and political crises, it was hard not to get affected as gas, electricity and even food, have become so expensive.

"I have no choice but to increase prices because we cannot sacrifice the quality of our food. But I made sure they still are at affordable levels," says Chuachiaco.

Conflicts and disagreements also inevitably came between the seven ladies—all friends from the Greenhills Christian Fellowship—who built Kitaro.

"That's why we decided that no matter what happens, our mantra would be this: Put God first, friendship second and profit third. If Kitaro gets in the way of our friendship and faith in God, then Kitaro is not worth pursuing," says Chuachiaco.

But it was definitely worth pursuing, as Chuachiaco and her friends would later find out.

In fact, Kitaro has now proven itself ripe for franchising.

It will offer full franchises in 2006 with investment packages starting at P5 million for an 80 square-meter branch.

Expanding in the provinces, however, is another story.

Although Kitaro has branches in Baguio and Pampanga, it is not in any hurry to put up more branches nationwide.

"Japanese food is still an acquired taste and we want to make sure that there is a market for this cuisine in those areas before we put up stores," says Chuachiaco.

According to Chuachiaco, Kitaro's success really boils down to only two things.

"We have authentic, quality Japanese food at value for your money. And I think these two factors have kept us at the forefront after all these years," says Chuachiaco.

Filipino heroes abound

From page B1

my were among the principles emphasized in these books that the Hunters took to heart.

"We sat around and discussed what we read," De Ocampo said. "We talked about what to do to apply the principles that we learned from the books and from our discussion."

First test

They trained continuously for a little over a month. And the first test of their newfound military knowledge came in August when 19 of the Hunters, including De Ocampo, went to Pugad Lawin to ambush a Japanese unit.

They waited in ambush for about an hour with about seven Hunters on both sides of the road.

When the Japanese soldiers aboard six trucks moved into position, the Hunters fired and for the first time killed an enemy.

His heart was pounding from both fear and exhilaration, with bullets whizzing over his head. But De Ocampo said he had to smile, even at the height of that battle, because some of his comrades from the other side of the road winked at him every time they hit a Japanese soldier.

"We had the entire rifle team of Jose Rizal College," De Ocampo said. "They were real sharpshooters. They made each bullet count."

In two hours, the ambush was over and the Hunters won with no casualties. Some Japanese died, the others fled.

Morale was high and they had to stop themselves from jumping in jubilation like the teenagers that they were.

"Some of the people who witnessed that ambush came up to us and said that Filipinos can beat the Japanese, after all," De Ocampo said. "We showed that."

What the Hunters did not know was that the ambush was also witnessed by some members of the Hukbong Bayan Laban Sa Hapon.

Hukbalahap

The Hukbalahap was so impressed by what the Hunters did that an emissary was sent to the Hunters to ask them to train the Hukbalahap troops.

That further bolstered the morale of the Hunters and they moved from strength to strength. Soon, ordinary people were asking to join in their effort to repel the invaders.

The Hunters, headed by Eleuterio Adevoso starting 1943, also a PMA cadet, trained shoemakers from Marikina, pot makers from Rizal and ordinary folk bound by a common desire to fight.

There were even some foreigners who fought with them, such as Otto Herman, whose father was the head of the Nazi party in the Philippines. Women also joined and were put in charge of the hospital and the supplies.

They all had to rely on their own wits, De Ocampo said, for they did not believe that the American forces would come back.

At its height, the Hunters was 25,000-strong, and its strongholds stretched from Batanes in the north to as far as Laguna. De Ocampo was put in charge of the Southern Tagalog operations.

Eventually, the Americans did come back and De Ocampo's group was attached with the 11th Airborne Division, which was tasked to raid Fort McKinley in March 1945. They succeeded in turning back the Japanese, earning for De Ocampo a Distinguished Conduct Star.

More fighting ensued at several fronts and they all heaved a sigh of relief when news of Japan's surrender spread like wildfire among the Filipino troops.

By Sept. 2, Japan formally surrendered and the war was over—the end of the Hunters' long fight against the Japanese.

De Ocampo said few of the top officials of the Hunters considered a military career after the war. Most went back to school and led civilian lives.

Haunting memories

He said the military was not for him as war was too ugly to be involved in.

De Ocampo still remembers the time in Lipa, Batangas where he and some Hunters came upon a village raided just a few hours before by the Japanese.

Some 30 dead men, women and children littered the streets, their blood still glistening in the morning sun. Some took refuge in the churches, but they were not spared. Bodies of nuns and priests were found one on top of another in deep wells.

He also recalled the moaning and crying of women in Cupang, Marikina who lost their husbands to Japanese forces. There was such rage in them that they asked De Ocampo and his troops for the Japanese prisoner they were about to execute.

They got their wish and the widows killed him slowly, painfully, using the *bakyas* they made themselves.

"War is an ugly thing ... I would not want to wish it on any generation," said De Ocampo, who now fights another battle—this time to help fellow veterans get their due as head of the World War II Federation and chair of the Philippine Veterans Bank.

He, however, expressed confidence that Filipinos today, even the young in the age of e-mail and mobile phones, would be able to do what they did 60 years ago, when the Philippines needed the help of its citizens.

"I feel that it is in our blood," he said. "Filipinos at that time did not only accept the challenge of the times, they met it. And I feel that if the same challenge was posed today, Filipinos would be equal to it."

Ex-laborer earned first million at 26

From page B2

worked overtime as often as he could. During weekends, he bought *palay* from farmers in Tarlac, had them milled and sold them as rice to canteen owners in Metro Manila, mostly at the Luneta Park and Manila Zoo.

Starting with 10 sacks of rice, Villafaña's business grew so fast that he had to rent a jeepney to transport his products from Tarlac to Metro Manila.

Hard work, discipline

And in the two years that he was employed at Pagcor, he never failed to bring home to his wife his pay envelop unopened.

Hard work and discipline made it possible for the Villafaña couple to save about P2,000 a month. Still, he realized it was not enough.

"In one year, P24,000. In 10 years, P240,000. Our quality of living won't improve. How could I afford to send my children to school? What if they get sick? In my computation, it won't work," he says in Filipino.

He was at a crossroads. Emboldened by his earlier success as a part-time businessman, he decided to quit his job and go into trading full time.

"I was into many things—planting rice, retailing diesel fuel, selling fish and broomsticks," he says.

In 1994, he saved enough money to buy a 660-square meter residential lot behind his parents' house in Barangay Balingcanaway here.

Big break

In 1996, however, business slowed down, but before it ground to a halt, Villafaña had become a salaried employee once again.

For two years, he worked as a mobile phone programmer at a telecommunications company.

After his brief stint in the firm, he got the big break he had been waiting for.

Selling water-refilling machines by telephone, he managed to clinch one deal after another.

In his first three months, he sold 14 units worth millions of pesos.

Realizing he could market expensive water purifying and refilling machines as easily as he did small items like rice and broomsticks, Villafaña vowed to learn the finer details of the business.

To learn the business firsthand, he volunteered to do odd jobs for a company specializing in the importation and sale of food processing and water purifying equipment.

Water-refilling stations

At the same time, he began selling five-gallon polycarbonate bottles and polyethylene pet bottles.

He supplied these items to water-refilling stations in the Ilocos, in La Union and in Baguio City, among others.

For his office, he occupied an unused corner in a warehouse owned by the company where he volunteered his services.

Asked how much start-up capital he had, he said he had none.

Since his clients trusted him, Villafaña says that they paid in advance. He then used the money to pay his supplier.

Inspire trust

"That's why it is important that your name inspires trust," he says.

His mettle as a struggling businessman was soon tested.

He had made deliveries worth P1.2 million to a Chinese businessman who promised to pay him in a month.

As was his usual practice, he got the items from another Chinese businessman who gave him 45 days to pay his debt.

But his client did not honor their 30-day agreement to settle his debt.

This gave him sleepless nights.

"I was laughing and cursing myself for having made such a stupid mistake that early in my career. It was more than a million pesos and all that I had was a savings of P300,000, which I already gave to my supplier," he says.

When he realized that his client was not about to pay up, he started calling him up and cursing him in anger.

"He cursed me back and we had an argument. On the 150th day, I went to my client's office and brought with me an uncle who was a military officer. This client paid up. But I never dealt with him since," he says.

He says he was lucky that his Chinese supplier, who had known about his problem, understood his situation.

Honesty, trust

He put that episode behind him and over time, Villafaña built a reputation as an honest and a straight-dealing salesman.

When he put up the company Inter-EX Water System, all that he had to do to get the things needed for his business was to call up his suppliers.

"I did not pass through the usual purchase procedures that were time consuming. They would deliver the supplies I needed and the documentation, such as purchase orders, would follow," he says.

Also because of this trust, his suppliers, most of them Chinese traders, were always willing to give him what he wanted on credit, payable in 30 to 45 days.

Considering the cost of equipment and machines that he bought and sold (a water-refilling unit, for example, is cost between P400,000 and P800,000) these "conveniences" go a long way, he says.

Lean and mean

Begun as a two-man firm (Villafaña and a secretary), Inter-EX the next year was staffed by 18 employees and was housed in a three-story building in Quezon City.

"We were lean and mean. That was why we often won against bigger companies. We had less operating costs and this allowed us to lower our prices considerably," Villafaña says.

His success did not go unnoticed.

In February this year, though, he closed Inter-EX after almost seven years in the market to give way to the Water Resource Inc., a company set up by his brothers and sisters.

His father sits as president of the firm.

Villafaña now sells imported industrial machinery like food processing equipment, meat mixers and grinders, ice makers and industrial automatic filters.

He is working hard now to fulfill one more dream: Retire at 50 and become a farmer.

Next prime destination: Macau

By Sandra D. Garcia
Contributor

BUSINESS TRAVEL

IF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE packing your bags for Hong Kong Disneyland opening tomorrow, consider a side trip to Macau.

Only one hour and 45 minutes from Manila, the island-city charms with its fusion of the old and new, blending booming, new Las Vegas-style casino-hotels with historic ruins, churches, museums and parks, not to mention shopping and restaurants galore.

Macau (derived from the name of a Chinese goddess, popular with seafarers and fishermen, known as A-Ma or Ling Ma) is at the southeastern coast of China. The territory comprises a peninsula and two islands in the Pearl River delta of Guangdong Province. Some 60 kms to the northeast, across the mouth of the river, is Hong Kong.

The city of Macau is built on the peninsula; two bridges of 2.5 kms and 4.5 kms respectively link it to its nearest island of Taipa, which in turn is joined to Coloane by a 2.2 km-long causeway. At the extreme northern end of the peninsula, on a narrow isthmus, is the imposing gateway (Portas do Cerco, or Border Gate), which leads to the Zhuhai and Zhongshan areas of China.

Several fleets of high-speed vessels serve the 40-mile route between Hong Kong and Macau: jetfoils, turbo-cats, jumbo-cats and hover ferries. There are more than 100 sailings throughout the day and evening, with all-night service by jetfoils.

Travelling to and from China is also very convenient. There are scheduled jetcat and boat services between Macau and different cities of Guangdong Province. There is also a helicopter service linking Zhuhai and Guangzhou (capital of Guangdong Province), allowing visitors to arrive at the destination within half an hour. The Zhuhai Special Economic Zone is at walking distance, immediately across the Border Gate from Macau.

Most tour operators in Macau offer packages to China including application of visas, booking of tickets, luggage handling, hotel reservations, transfers and other related services.

Recently, the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines hosted Macau Week featuring a trade exhibit and food festival. At the food festival, three chefs from Macau's famed tourism school, Instituto de Formacao Turistico (IFT), were flown in.

They regaled the guests with authentic Macanese delights including Salad of Pig's Ear with Coriander; Bacalhau or Portuguese cod, Caldo Verde - Potato and Kale Soup; African Chicken; and the famed Portuguese Egg Tartlets, washed down with an array of Portuguese wines.

A former Portuguese colony and now a Special Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, Macau enjoys cookery that is an amalgam of the tastes of the mother country as well as of Portugal's former colonies in India and Africa, among others. At the crossroads of seafaring traders from Europe and China, the island enclave inevitably incorporated the spices, herbs and vegetables of the Old World and Asia into what has become its unique cuisine today.

The Macau Roadshow featured an interactive exhibit of the varied attractions of Macau and its islands of Taipa and Coloane. Guests enjoyed samplings of delicacies, such as almond cookies, egg tartlets, soy bean curd and wine while artisans demonstrated different arts and crafts. Film showings and performances of the 24-member Macau Dance Troupe were held at regular intervals, attracting even more crowds.

(For more information on Macau, call or visit your travel agent or the Macau Government Tourist Office-Philippines, 11/F Valero Tower, 122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, with telephones 812-2595/813-0947. For feedback, please e-mail sdg1402@yahoo.com).

MACAU'S attractions, like the Macau Tower, appeal to all markets.

Quezon now . . .

From page B12

CAFE
DE SAN ANTONIO

"My father used to sell coffee to traders and exporters in Lipa City and Mataas na Kahoy town. Coffee is close to my heart. I've seen and felt the ups and downs of the industry and I can sense that it is again on the rebound," Fred says.

He sadly recalls how the coffee industry slumped in 1989 when coffee prices in the world market stumbled due to the United States' decision to withdraw from the international quota system.

From P100, coffee crashed to P40 a kilo, forcing coffee farmers to uproot their coffee trees and shift to other dependable crops.

When the industry bounced back, Fred left his job in Manila in 2002 and returned home to give the lethargic family coffee trading business a new lease on life.

His decision was partly influenced by the mushrooming coffee shops in the metropolis and the encouragement of his friends, who were all coffee drinkers.

Full time

"When my friends learned that my family has a coffee farm and is into coffee business, they encouraged me to explore the potentials of the trade. They pushed me to go full time in the business," Fred recalls.

The following year, the DTI gave him the business name Café de San Antonio after his town.

"That's the time when I told myself: this really is what I want," he says.

He started with 18 sacks of milled coffee, which he brought to a brewer in Manila that, unfortunately, turned the cargo down due to the small volume.

He brought the product to the brewer's competitor.

"Luckily, I made a deal. From 18 sacks, my transaction eventually reached a thousand sacks. That was when I called my friends and asked them if they wanted to invest," Fred says. Seven friends joined him.

Barako

Café de San Antonio trades Robusta, Arabica, Excelsa and Liberica (Barako) coffee varieties.

Fred sources beans mostly from the coffee farms in the Sariaya and Dolores parts of Mt. Banahaw and in some areas in the Bondoc Peninsula.

Coffee trees grow best in high altitude as colder climate encourages a slower maturing berry with less moisture and more flavor, Fred says.

The coffee beans are blended and roasted to perfection, ground and finally tested for taste, aroma, richness, acidity and finish—all according to very strict company standards.

Café de San Antonio now produces finely ground coffee beans, which it packs in glossy bags and sachets to keep them fresh.

It supplies supermarkets and convenient stores in Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila.

Coffee shops

"We also supply to several coffee shops in Metro Manila," Fred says, adding that he plans to put up his own coffee shop.

He says coffee shops helped a lot in the recovery of the local coffee industry.

During the recent Heritage Festival 2005 held in SM City Lucena in celebration of Quezon Week, Fred was very busy manning the Café de San Antonio counter provided free by SM management, where he and the staff dispensed free cups of steaming "barako" coffee to mall goers.

He had posters that provided basic facts about the coffee, the company origin, goals and the process involved in the production.

Fred says the DTI and the provincial government gave him all the assistance and support he needed.

"We're always included in trade fairs and exhibits, giving our products all the needed exposure. Our success will surely redound to the benefit of Quezon coffee farmers," he says.

(The office and factory of Café de San Antonio are located at Barangay Sampaguita, San Antonio, Quezon with Tel. Nos. (042)545-4175 and 09162573782)

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3. Inner Lot / L-4 B-5 / LA-384	1,469,000
4. Inner Lot / L-5 B-5 / LA-363	1,389,000
5. Inner Lot / L-8 B-5 / LA-369	1,412,000
6. Inner Lot / L-10 B-5 / LA-445	1,703,000
7. Inner Lot / L-14 B-5 / LA-440	1,683,000
8. Inner Lot / L-16 B-5 / LA-308	1,179,000
9. Inner Lot / L-6 B-6 / LA-314	1,201,000
10. Inner Lot / L-7 B-6 / LA-350	1,339,000
11. Inner Lot / L-10 B-6 / LA-305	1,167,000
12. Inner Lot / L-11 B-6 / LA-318	1,217,000
13. Inner Lot / L-20 B-6 / LA-304	1,163,000
14. Inner Lot / L-26 B-6 / LA-357	1,366,000
15. Inner Lot / L-30 B-6 / LA-353	1,351,000
16. Inner Lot / L-3 B-7 / LA-386	1,477,000
17. Inner Lot / L-4 B-7 / LA-404	1,546,000
18. Inner Lot / L-5 B-7 / LA-375	1,435,000
19. Inner Lot / L-6 B-7 / LA-393	1,504,000
20. Inner Lot / L-7 B-7 / LA-360	1,377,000
21. Inner Lot / L-8 B-7 / LA-383	1,465,000
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24. Inner Lot / L-12 B-7 / LA-376	1,439,000
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28. Inner Lot/L-29 B-27/ LA-435	479,000
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CEBU	MIN BID
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35. Lot/Lots 20 & 6-D Paseo Annotia, Ma. Luisa Estate Park Subd./ T.L.A.- 1,168	5,211,000
Busay – (near Cebu Plaza Hotel)	
36. Lot / L- 2-C-2 / LA-393	302,000
37. Lot / L-2-C-3 / LA-393	333,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY	MIN BID
38. Lot-1347-B-4, Cabo Subd. LA-10,038 (w/ Lis Pendens & occupants)	9,544,000

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DAVAO CITY – Poblacion	MIN BID
39. H&L / L-12, 14 & 16 Blk.-9 Dahlia Loop, Ladislawa, Garden Vill. (w/ occupant) TLA-1,424 / FA-480	8,000,000
Ma-a, Talomo (Interior)	
40. Agri./ Lot-410-E-1/LA-12,000	5,520,000
41. Agri./ Lot-410-E-2/LA-12,000	5,520,000
42. Agri./ Lot-410-E-3/LA-12,059	5,550,000
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PAGADIAN CITY - Lineza	MIN BID
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53. * Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Houses Lots 4761 & 4768, Cebu South Rd. (TLA-3,109 / TFA-2,499 (on lease)	21,600,000
54. * Ind'l.Lot w/ W'Hse / Offc Lots 4759, Cebu South Road LA-2,688 / TFA-2,186 (On lease)	18,400,000
55. * Comml. Lot w/ 6 sty. Building / L7624-C -1-B and 7624-C-3,Colon Pahina Central Sambag / LA-660 70 TFA-2,797 (on lease)	76,005,000

MISAMIS ORIENTAL	MIN BID
56.* Ind'l. Lot w/ bldgs, Old Nat'l Hi-way, Luz Banzon, Jasaan TLA 5,464/TFA 1,569 (beside Pilipinas Kao)	9,257,000

DAVAO CITY(nr. Magsaysay Park)	MIN BID
57. * Lot / Lots 1-L-3-B-2, 1-L-3-D-2-C & 1-L-3-D-1-D, P. Bangoy / T.L.A. - 1,976	27,230,000
58. Lot / Lots 1-L-3-H-3-B-1 & 1-L-3-H-3-B-2, J Luna / TLA-544	4,004,000
59. Lot / Lot 1-L-3-H-3-B-3, Juan Luna / TLA-271 (w/ occupants)	2,000,000

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PROVIDENT VILL 6BR 5TB 2CG LA600m² P7M nego 242-7403 • 0918-9091206

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OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
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2. 374 Square Meters
3. 190 Square Meters
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Pls. Contact
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HOUSE & LOT

PARANAQUE

BRITANNY T/house Promo
Blk Lot 18 6.6M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 20 6.6M now P5.7M
Blk Lot 14 7.0M now P6.0M
PORTOFINO LA522 P6.8M now P5.9M Call Tina Morales 806-6309 ; 0917-8413300

PASIG

GREENPARK nr Mall/Lrt/3BR 2.5M 20%dp: 0917-861-1193

QUEZON CITY

215m² w/3hses 4546124

2sty 4BRs 3TB mde rm 3 car grge Blue Ridge T - 8236047•8114071

2Sty Cono cor 265m² 24hr water no flood nr QC Hall Sulu 9229758 #84Maginoo

Arcadia 4br 0917-5213838

BRIXTON HILLS 830m² 2TCT Nice Hse 23M 0917-5218855

CUBAO 5min gateway 2 Adj Properties 6dr apts dplx w/ Inc+nice hse 4376005 Ms Fe

H&L or Lot only 60-1254sqm nr Congrl Ave. call Rene 438-2966 - 0916-3633975

KAMIAS #60 K-6 cor K-I 9210255

KAPITOLYO 3BR/TB 634-1212

MOLINO RD nr SM 2BR/1TB renovatd 1.8M-09192123441

•Nr Morato #11 K-2nd Kamuning 5BR4TB Bnew 9210255/9967 09178865431

Talayan 720sqm 25th/sqm Direct Buyer Rush call T-09209128066 / 09223236198

Xavierville II P12M FA700 6BR 4TB 4CG 2STY 4547647 / 09062039731;09178479099

RIZAL

GREENLAND Ampid Sn Mateo 2sty 3br cono P2.8neg DP1.2M nice 2974940 / 0917-8511193

SAN JUAN

2Stry Hse 7.5M 0917-5218855

OTHER AREAS

BRANDNEW H&L 1M-25M (Mon-Sat) 842-1914/842-9570

CAVITE

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA 137m² FA 198 90 m² 5BR P1.6M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MOLINO P4t/mo 529-6117

Near Tgyty 605K 5208410

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

ADELINA 1 3BD LA183 m² @P1.7M PACITA CMPLX 3BD LA 180m² @P1.5M MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3 Stry LA 78m² FA210m² @P1.5M Gigie / Vic 8903461 loc 27 or 25

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CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

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CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

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MANDALUYONG

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Paragon 110sqm w/parking 2BR smlmshed 4M neg. rsh 09209128066/09223236198

RUSH SALE WACK' TWIN TWR 3Bedrooms, Nice View 145sq.m 1Parking Php5.5M CP#0918-4762278

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Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 9126976

DUNHILL PARK VILLAS P2.3M 1car grge 4BR 3T&B 439-1995•0920-9020858

NEW MANILA 0917-5213838

RENOWNED LANE P3M Sanville Bnew 3BR2TB 4539180 /81 Rene

TEACHERS VILLAGE P3.8M 2car grge 4BR 4T&B 439-1995 • 0920-9020858

SAN JUAN

NEAR PGUEVARRA BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.645M&up8903461

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• Mktl C5 Nr The Fort 1.3M Up
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2-4BR Condo 0917-6169849

LOT

ALABANG

A.HILLS 556m² 09175259510

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE V 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

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ST. MICHAEL VILL. 280sqm 0915-4001198

MANILA

MHdelPilar Malate 0917-5218855

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

MANDALUYONG

MAND EDSA 400m² 645-3731

MARIKINA

1578m² Nr Katipunan 6341212

PARANAQUE

COUTNRYSIDE P5 BQ. SUNVALEY 120m² NR ENTRANC 8127760

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

123m² T.Sora; 400&5500m² @Filinvest 0921-3933567 or 259-1733 Tess

300sqm España T-8014245

ACROPOLIS 330;344m² AM SUN PRIME LOCATION P39T/SQM T-8898475 ; 4796 ; 6337601

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-6850 929-1832 • 0919-8212236

GREENMEADOWS QC 1,447.40sqm P28T/sqm nego Tel Lizsor Malou 6380568-69

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RIZAL

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TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS 240m² P3,125m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

SAN JUAN

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BATANGAS

CANYON WOODS 297 SQM CORNER LOT 09178465694

RANCHO VISTA SUBD 613/m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 Loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000 m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBD LOC: SILANG CAVITE W/ACCESS FR. AGUINALDO H-WAY, 8KM. FR RONINSONS & SM DASMARINAS RIPE FOR PROJECT DEV'T APPROXIMATELY 70HAS TYRINE CHUA - 2421309

LAND SUITABLE FOR SUBD PALO, ALTO, CALAMBA, LAG RIPE FOR PROJECT DEV'T APPROXIMATELY 43 HAS. TYRINE CHUA - 2421309

PARKPLACE 120m² @P5,750/m² PARKPLACE 149m² @P6,028/m² ST. CHARBEL 371m² @P2,650m² DON BOSCO EXEC HTS 128m² @P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 LOC 27

LAGUNA

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Single, Male not more than 26 years old. A graduate of Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Engineering course. Supervisorial based position available. Leadership skills necessary. Injection machine operation background is a must. Material knowledge is an advantage.

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---

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Tawi-tawi
Municipality of Sitangkal

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The local Government Unit of Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	: Sibutu Potable Water System – Level II
Location	: Sibutu ARC, Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi
Brief Description	: Well Development & Installation of 2-unit Suction Pipe Laying and Construction of Pump house, Elevated Reservoir and Parameter Fences
Approved Budget Cost	: Php. 12,134,594.46
Contract Duration	: 190 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 17-23, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 17-23, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	September 23, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	September 26, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 28 to October 03, 2005
6. Pre-bid Conference	September 30, 2005; 9:00AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	October 13, 2005; 2:00PM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders *Eligibility Forms* at BAC Secretariat, Municipal Hall *Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi* upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred pesos only (Php 1,500.00) to the LGU of *Sitangkal's* Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is P121,346.00;
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount of P303,364.90 callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or by reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in favor of LGU – Sitangkal, Tawi-tawi.

The BAC will issue *Bidding Documents* only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos only (Php 1,500.00) to the LGU of *Sitangkal's* Cashier.

The LGU of Sitangkal reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) MAHDUM T. SAMUDDIN
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

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MANDALUYONG

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MARIKINA

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PARANAQUE

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QUEZON CITY

2br 177TSora 7T 4540354

600m² 4BR 4CAR 634-1212

CAVITE

MOLINO, Semi Furnshd P6500/ MO 2BR,T&B,GRGE 0920-6337853

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LAGUNA

BelAir U/D 3BR SF w/Fence 10T/mo 7159502, 0928-2205761

CONDO/TWNHSE

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PASAY

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CUENCA LIBERTAD 2BR P7.8T 550-0254

DRIVER PASAY 510-0915

FURNISHED STUDIO 8872865

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB w/Prkng #8 E. Skylark St Zabarte Subd. Nova. QC Nr Schools, Quirino H-way, SM F'view & Robinsons P6,500 /mo. 426-0312 0917-5255487 Mr. Ramirez

CUBAO near Church School Market 9121285

Proj3 2BR own gate 4216148

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For Lease P20T/mo. Binan, Laguna 250sqm area 850-4177/(0917)8442143

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WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

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ATENEO 3.5K Ldy 0922-8871107

Mktl nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

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COM'L OFC BLDG 3FLRS COM'L APT W /BODEGA 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3612563

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KIA

98Pride GTX MT 140T Casa Mntnd Nothing2Fix 881-9584

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- CPA, Female, not more than 35 years of age
- Must have 2-3 years work experience
- With excellent computer skills

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Female, not more than 30 years old
- Pref. 2-3 years work related experience
- Computer literate (MS Office)
- Detailed person, can handle work pressure

Apply personally in your business attire at:
Suite 412 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower
2210 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Submission of application is Mon - Wed only

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CAR LOAN

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

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2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

AUDIO/ VIDEO

Harman Kardon Receiver 330model P28T 0917-8664346

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT ELITE PIANO CENTER Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

MPin B&Tan M Vac 4285206

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PETS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE METROPOLITAN CLUB, INC. MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE NO. B-0860 UNDER SEALAND SERVICES, INC. WAS DECLARED LOST. IF NO CONTEST IS RECEIVED IN ONE (1) YEAR, NEW CERTIFICATE WILL BE ISSUED. (PDI-SEPT. 4,11 & 18, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Emmanuel S. De Leon has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 88; Page 18; Book II; Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Raul L. Hipona of Manila. (PDI-Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN CASH & INVST 7832337

PCCI

GOOD NEWS TO PCCI MEMBERS

1. ROLL BACK OF THE ADMISSION FEE FOR NEW MEMBERS FROM Php800.00 to Php300.00
2. AMNESTY FOR LATE REGISTRATION OF THE LITTER TICKETS
    - a. under 2 years - 100.00
    - b. 2 to under 4 years - 200.00
    - c. 4 years and over - 300.00
3. OWNER OF DOG WITHOUT LITTER TICKET MAY CONTACT THE PCCI OFFICE FOR POSSIBLE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DOCUMENT BY PROVIDING THE NAME OF THE BREEDER AND OTHER DETAILS OF THE DOG.
4. PCCI WILL BE ACCEPTING LISTING OF UNREGISTERED DOGS SUBJECT TO EXAMINATION BY PCCI JUDGE

DOGS UNDER ITEMS 2 TO 4 WILL BE REQUIRED TO HAVE IDENTIFICATION THROUGH ANYONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- a. Tattoo
- b. Microchip
- c. DNA

FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE CALL THE PCCI OFFICE AT 721-8345/724-1225 to 27

PCCI

345TH & 346TH PCCI
All Breeds Dogshows
RIVER BANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
SEPTEMBER 17 & 18 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. DENNIS COKALL (UK)
MRS. CLARE COKALL (UK)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM

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Wanted Contractor 0917-8463228

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application TRG PHILIPPINES, INC. UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE OF THE RESOURCE GROUP with office address at (Pre-Incorporation Address) c/o Corporate Counsels, Philippines Law Offices, 21st Floor Pacific Star Building, Makati City to and occupy 5 floors of Hanston Building, 20 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as an New IT Export Service Firm in the field of Call Center with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on September 9, 2005 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 9th day of September 2005.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--Sept. 11, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Promo Free Visa on Opening Oct 21 AGEL USA Product MLM 0917-8838088 www.iamagel.com/rich

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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5 telesales Reps;male, 25-50 yrs. old, hardworking and must speak English fluently, Php20,000/mo. Fax resume to 752-4160

Masseur 18-25yo 09204540607

MALE/FEMALE

EXPD. PREP & GS TEACHERS MS. LUCHI • TEL. 725-2903

High Quality salesman to sell executive job placements, Php 18,000 plus commision. Fax resume' to Mr. Ruiz at 886-6296

LICENSED DENTIST 6452452

MKTG ASST 09184154441 JANET

MKTG STAFF • 09193318380

NEED DENTIST URGENT 8732672

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 0918-2742245

OFC STAFF #09193318380

OPTOMETRISTS 3033915

PHARMACIST 9486272

Promodisers
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Doortech System
5th Ave cor P.Tuazon Cubao,QC

TUTOR TEACHER H.SCH-ALL SUBJ 7251930 BET. 11-6PM

MARIKINA

ACCOUNTANT
Female single 30yrs old with pleasing personality with exp in Realty. Apply at Lot 66 JP Rozal St. Nangka, Marikina City Tel # 9980160 / 4750248 Cell # 09178564623

St. Paul University Quezon City
Third Year Mass Communication Students
under the Paradiso Production presents
Paraisong Parisukat by: Orlando Nadres
October 8, 2005 Saturday
Matinee: 3:00 pm Gala: 6:30 pm
Fr. James B. Reuter Theatre
St. Paul University Quezon City
Play directed by: Kats Manalastas

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

AUDITOR

Qualifications:
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 3 years auditing experience
- At least 1 year supervisory / management experience
- Knowledge of Gen. Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures.
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
- Knowledge of Financial Data Analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws.
- Analytical Skills, Team Player
- Can promote & implement appropriate process improvements, Leadership Skills

Responsibilities:
- Performs audit procedure, organizes working papers and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Responsible for assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/ programs.

CREDIT STAFF

Qualifications:
- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

Responsibilities:
- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate of any business course
- At least 1 year circulation / marketing experience in related field is an advantage
- Communication Skills, Entrepreneurship, Partnering / Networking, Negotiation Skills, Presentation and Project Management Skills, Knowledge in computer applications
- Familiar with and ability to travel across the Luzon provinces and its key cities

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Economics, BS Statistics, BS Math
- 1 year experience as researcher
- Knows how to write; proficient in computer, especially in search technologies, Excel, Corel, Powerpoint, Netscape, and Microsoft Word programs; creative
- Very particular with details; willing to work on field assignments; can work under pressure

DESK EDITOR – SOUTH LUZON BUREAU

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably major in Journalism or Social Sciences course
- 3 years experience in newspaper journalism
- 1 year experience in editing stories and designing/layouting pages
- Knowledge of the ins and outs of the bureau assigned
- Nose for news, interpersonal management skills, leadership skills, editing skills, layouting skills, mews evaluating skills, writing skills, budget management skills and finance & assets management skills
- Familiar with editorial operations in a publishing industry

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for coordinating activities of news gathering in the business by determining priority and occasionally assigning coverage with the objective of assisting in achieving editorial excellence.

Send your application letter
and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

NTC-M
NMFPI

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA

Is in need of a

INSTRUCTORS
FOR

DYNAMIC POSITION SIMULATOR
OFFSHORE CRANE SIMULATOR
LNG SIMULATOR
BRIDGE SIMULATOR

Who Are We?

The **Norwegian Training Center-Manila** of the Norwegian Maritime Foundation of the Phils., Inc. (NMFPI) was founded in May 1990 for the purpose of ensuring competent training and to promote quality shipping.

We offer varied courses from Ship and Cargo Handling; Management; Technical; Safety Courses; Welding; and Culinary Courses.

Our faculty of Norwegian and Filipino mariners is trained to teach with confidence, aided by modern teaching aids and methods.

NORWEGIAN TRAINING CENTER-MANILA (NTC-M) and **SHIPS MANUEVERING SIMULATOR CENTRE AS (SMSC)** in Trondheim, Norway are joining forces in order for NTC-M to be able to offer new products within simulator training to the shipping industry in the Philippines.

A new wing at the NTC-M complex will be ready mid-September 2005. This will give us first class facilities for our instructors, four new classrooms and a special area for new simulators.

New simulators such as **Dynamic Positioning Systems** for DP certificate, **Offshore Crane Simulator** for crane certificate and **LNG Simulator** will be installed this year and courses will be offered to the industry as from January 2006.

A new state of the art bridge simulator will be installed during first half of 2006. (Our present bridge simulator will be upgraded during first half of September 2005).

In connection with this development, new instructors will be hired and trained partly in Norway and partly at NTC-M in Manila.

We are looking for both active sailing senior officers that are willing to teach during the vacation period and personnel that look for a permanent employment with NTC-M.

What We Are Looking For?

Positions	Requirements
Instructors for Dynamic Position Simulator	Limited of Full DP Certificate
Instructors for Offshore Crane Simulator	Experience from operation of offshore cranes or similar cranes (bigger ships cranes) and some mechanical education/ experience.
Instructors for LNG Simulator	Experience from LNG or LPG vessels as Captain/Chief Officer
Instructors for Bridge Simulator	Experienced Captain and preferably with experience in teaching.

For applications please contact either of the following
Ms. Siesila G. Tani-Salva, Administration Manager

Address:
Norwegian Training Center-Manila
NTC-M Building, Gate 2 TESDA Complex,
East Service Road, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel. No.: 812-07-42
Website: www.ntcm.com.ph
E-mail: admin.manager@ntcm.com.ph
ntcm.registrar@ntcm.com.ph

WANTED BY A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF AUTOMOTIVE PARTS

SALES SUPERVISOR (Automotive Aftermarket)

- Female, not over 26 years old
- Must have relevant experience in sales & marketing
- Self starter, aggressive and very pleasing personality
- Knowledge in business development focusing on improvement of sales through expanding distribution channel
- Must know basic dealer development such as implementation of incentive program for dealers and dealer sales personnel
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

SHOWROOM PERSONNEL

- Female, not over 25 years old
- Fresh graduates are welcome
- Attractive with very pleasing personality
- Good customer orientation
- Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may sent their comprehensive resumé with recent ID picture at Las Piñas City post office PO Box No. 0192, Las Piñas City or e-mail address: hrd_greatjob@yahoo.com

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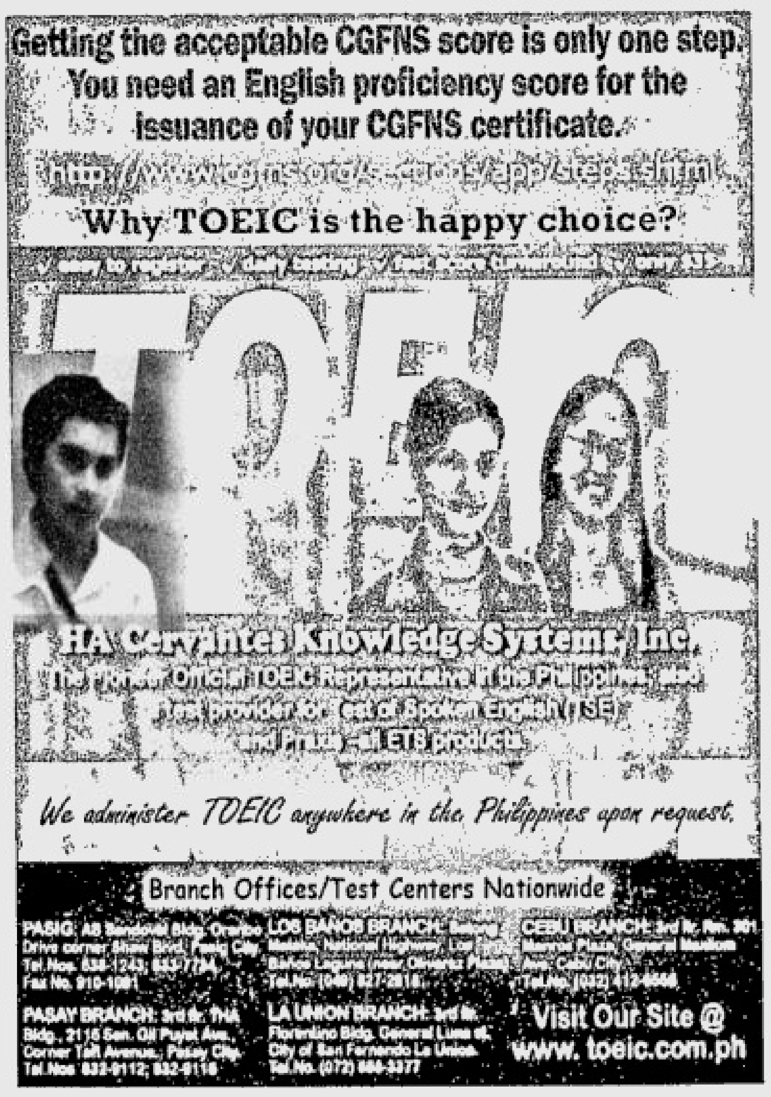
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You need an English proficiency score for the issuance of your CGFNS certificate.
Why TOEIC is the happy choice?
TOEIC
HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems, Inc.
We administer TOEIC anywhere in the Philippines upon request.
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CEBU BRANCH
PASAY BRANCH
LA UNION BRANCH
Visit Our Site @ www. toeic.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALESMAN

Qualification:
- ☐ Male preferably with sales experience
- ☐ Hardworking, Honest, Trustworthy and Aggressive
- ☐ Below 30 yrs. Old
- ☐ College graduate
- ☐ Know how to drive with restriction 1, 2 & 3
- ☐ With pleasing personality

DRIVER

- ☐ Below 30 yrs. old
- ☐ Know how to drive with restriction 1, 2 & 3
- ☐ Familiar in Metro Manila Area

Please submit comprehensive resumé to:

***Fast* Trax Corporation**
978 Castañeda Interior Brgy. Namayan
Mandaluyong City
719-24-10 / 719-41-47

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02-636-1325

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"APPLY NOW PAY LATER PLAN"

Provincial Paid Seminar:

October 16, 2005-Better Food Better Service Restaurant
Dagupan City @ 9:00 A.M.-12:00 N.N.
Call or Text Miss Clem @ 0916-7689597

October 22, 2005-New Cherry Blossom Restaurant
Enriquez cor. Rizal Street, Lucena City@9:00-12:00 NN
Call or Text Miss Clem @ 0916-7689597

Provincial FREE Seminar:

October 15, 2005-Balikbayan Hall, Urdaneta City Cultural
And Sport Center @ 9:00 A.M.-12:00 N.N.
Urdaneta, Pangasinan
Call or Text Miss Ana @ 0919-4702048

Office FREE Seminar Schedule:
First Batch: 10 A.M
Second Batch : 2 P.M.

E-mail address: worldlinkimmigration@myway.com

URGENT!!!

We are a fast growing Company and we have an immediate need for the following personnel:

AIRCON DIV MGR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 15 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of large centralized airconditioning system

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT DIV MGR- Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 15 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of Waste Water Treatment Plants and/or Process Plants

MAINTENANCE MGR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 10 yrs experience in operations and/or maintenance of airconditioning equipment

PLANT OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR - Mech'l/Elect'l Engr
Min 7 yrs experience in operations and/or airconditioning plants, Waste Water Treatment Plants or Process Plants

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Min 10 yrs experience coordinating maintenance & operations activities

TRADESMEN
Qualified tradesmen = Mechanics, Plant Operators, Welders, Electricians, Pipefitters, Sheet Metal Workers

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR BIO-DATA WITH RECENT ID PIC. TO:

ENVIROKONSTRUK & DEV. CORP.
2/F RT & SONS BLDG., #14 ECONOMIA ST.,
BAGUMBAYAN, QUEZON CITY.
TEL. #437-5297 FAX #438-6776
email: edc@ebasph.com.ph

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

is a project of Lafayette Mining located on Rapu Rapu Island, which is situated 40 kilometers from Legazpi City. RRPI will operate a Gold, Copper, Silver and Zinc processing facility. The Gold Phase has been commissioned and base metal phase is currently under construction.

The exciting new project is seeking an

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

The Job

Provides high level secretarial services and administrative assistance to the Vice President for Operations.

The Requirement
- College Graduate
- At least five years experience in a similar role
- Assertive but with pleasing personality.
- Organized and superior keyboard skills
- High proficiency in written and verbal communication
- Good human relations, dynamic.personality
- Personable and adept in social graces
- Can compose business correspondence
- Can maintain confidences
- Willing to work in a remote area

Salary is commensurate to qualification

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resume to:

PO box 36, Legazpi City

or

renato.mapili@rrpi.com.ph

JOB Market **Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.**

True Value
Home Center

TRUE VALUE home center is inviting suppliers of Christmas items for selling in Metro Manila and Cebu. Approved merchandise is scheduled for September-October, 2005 delivery.

Interested suppliers may present their samples with price list to Ms. Khaye Martin. Don't miss this opportunity to see your products move this holiday season.

Call or text for an appointment at 898-0910 to 14 loc 800 & 801 / 09178045294

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line: 633-93-42
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address: jmluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(Supply and Delivery)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract per Package (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Package No. 1 23 sets consisting of Desktop Computer, Application Software, UPS, and colored Printer per set	Php2,300,000.00	September 21, 2005 10:00 a.m.	October 5, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php2,000.00	Pre-bid: BALS Conference Rm. 4th Flr. Mabini Bldg., DepED, Pasig, City	TEEP-CPISU
Package No. 2 1 unit Computer Server	Php200,000.00				Bid Opening: Bulwagan ng Karunungan Rizal I Bldg., Pasig City	

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **September 13, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no: 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ**
Undersecretary and Bac Chairman

(PDI—Sept. 11 & 18, 2005)

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES
wishes to announce its

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ON

Name of the Project: One-Year Contract of COMPREHENSIVE PEST CONTROL AND TERMITE SERVICES for CCP-Main, FAT, MFC, Admin & Finance Bldg., PDC, Ferry Terminal, Motorpool Garage and NAC Cottages

Location: CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City and Mt. Maria Makiling, Los Baños, Laguna

Approved Budget for Contract is PhP 1,028,698.77

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All particulars relative tot he eligibility, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat (c/o Cecilia E. Funtinilla) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below starting September 09, 2005 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500). The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CCP BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 21, 2005, 3:30pm, 3/F Tanghalang Pambansa CCP (Main Bldg.)

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 07, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash/certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit or bank guarantee or surety bond based on the agency approved budget for contract. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 07, 2005; 2:00pm. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The award of the project shall be based on the lowest calculated responsive bid received from the Bidders.

The CCP reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BAC Secretariat
Cecilia E. Funtinilla
3/F CCP Tanghalang Pambansa (CCP Main Bldg.)
Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 632-832-3667 / 632-832-1125 local 1106/1107
Fax No. 632-551-5960
Website: www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **NIEVES T. DULDULAO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

Send your resumé instantly.
JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application ONE GLOBAL CONTACT CENTER INC. with office address at 37th Floor Antel Global Corporate Center, No. 3 Doña Julia Vargas, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600, Metro Manila for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as an New ICT Export Service Firm in the field of Operation of Call Center with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on September 9, 2005 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 9th day of September 2005.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Sept. 11, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID
"AS IS WHERE IS"
DAMAGED MOTOR VEHICLES

Harvester Trachead UOB-611
Isuzu Dump Truck WSY-132
Isuzu Cargo Truck EVD-397
1998 Toyota Corolla WCU-588
1999 Honda City 1.3 WHX-845
2004 Honda City 1.3 DB-4404
2002 Mits Canter XCF-949
1999 Hyundai Starex LZL-800
2000 Isuzu Hilander WPT-210
2002 Honda CRV 4x2 XHW-718

For particulars, call 812-4520
LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION
3rd Floor, Jose Cojuangco Bldg.
119 dela Rosa cor. Palanca
Legaspi Village, Makati

In the FOOD business or planning to START, but on a tight budget?
We have the perfect opportunity for you!
Come and buy your equipment at
The **BIG**

Bodega Sale

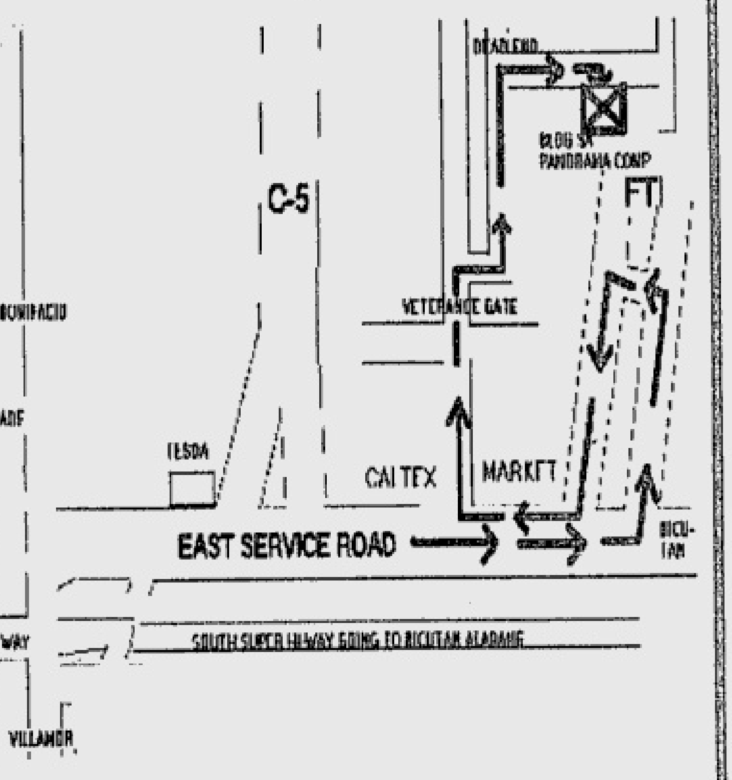
Featuring all the **BEST** brands in the *FOOD SERVICE* industry at low, low prices!

September 12, 13, 14, 2005

9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Everything Must Go!

9A Panorama Compound
Western Bicutan, Taguig
(Veteran's Village, near FTI)
Tel. 837-1879



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-98-22; 631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date September 6, 2005
Loan No. PH-P200
IFRB No.: SEDIP-2005-FURN-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, faculty rooms and guidance rooms of the different secondary schools in the nine (9) Division Offices under SEDIP, following the schedules below:

Division Office	Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	Time and Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time and Date of Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Agusan del Sur	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Agusan del Sur, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur	(085)242-3958
Antique	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Antique San Jose, Antique	(036)320-1321
Guimaras	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Guimaras, Jordan, Guimaras	(033)237-1322
Surigao del Sur	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Surigao del Sur, Tandag, Surigao del Sur	(086)211-3970
Leyte	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Leyte, Palo, Leyte	(053)323-9648
Negros Oriental	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Negros Oriental, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental	(035)422-7643
North Cotabato	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of North Cotabato, Kidapawan City, North Cotabato	(064)278-7017/ (064)278-4144
Romblon	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Romblon, Romblon, Romblon	(054)472-8216
Southern Leyte	September 15, 2005	10:00 a.m. September 30, 2005	10:00 p.m. October 14, 2005	Division Office of Southern Leyte, Maasin City, Southern Leyte	(053)570-9974

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantity of all the furniture items intended for the schools in each Division per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of a Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the concerned Division BAC Offices with telephone numbers and addresses listed in paragraph 2 or may visit the DepED website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurementservice.org.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) only.
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage for the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instructions to Bidders, must be delivered to the respective offices of the Division BAC at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC concerned reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary for Administration and Finance

(PDI – September 11 & 18, 2005)

Scotland's Theatre Babel presents Macbeth in Manila

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE British Council Philippines present Scotland's renowned Theatre Babel's staging of William Shakespeare's great tragedy "Macbeth" on Sept. 14, 8 p.m. and Sept. 15, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (Little Theater). It is directed by the group's artistic director and founder, Graham McLaren.

Established in 1994, Theatre Babel has produced a wide range of awardwinning work, from Shakespeare to Moliere to Chekhov and ancient Greek tragedians, from large scale productions to one-man plays, including some seminal commissions of new plays from leading Scottish writers. They have taken their work to major venues and festivals across the UK and internationally, performing in India, Taiwan, Canada and the USA in the last four years.

Theatre Babel was co-founded by Graham McLaren at the age of 25. He directed his first production in 1999 and followed this with the ambitious "Greeks", described as a "milestone in the development of Scottish theatre...". Since then, McLaren has directed and designed the majority of Babel's production, earning them the accolade of, "...the great style house of the Scottish stage..."

Theatre Babel's Macbeth is the group's tenth anniversary production. It was premiered at the Edinburgh Fringes Festival in Summer 2004 to rave reviews. Paeans to Theatre Babels's include : "A dark, elegant, intense and dignified affairs...a truly memorable filmic soundscape...a deliciously murky set...beautifully spoken (The Scotsman)...spectacular mise en scene (The Times)...Macbeth is one hell of a play to get right...Babel's take is by far the best for a long time." (The Daily Mail).

Theatre Babel's Manila engagement is a presentation of the British Council in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines. It is one of the events being held in celebration of the 25th year of the British Council in the Philippines. The British council is the United Kingdom's international organization for educational opportunities and cultural relations. It is a major channel for the UK's public diplomacy in the Philippines, putting the Filipino people in touch with people in the UK.

Tickets to Macbeth are priced at P500, with 50 percent discount for students and 20 percent discount for seniors. Group discounts are also available. For more information, call CCP Marketing at 832-1125 local 1800-1806 or the CCP box office at 832-3704.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
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DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

The Management and Staff of

CATS Motors, Inc. mazda Greenhills TIARA BIG board

Condole with the family of

Ang Chay Pue

*who peacefully joined our Lord
on September 7, 2005.*

His remains lie in state at the
Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park
C5 Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 14, 2005
at 9:00 a.m., The Heritage Park.

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*"In the world you will have trouble, but take courage
I have conquered the world"* **John 16:33**

ATTY. VICTOR 'BING' I. PADILLA

*Has peacefully joined his Creator
on September 8, 2005 at the age of 57.*

His loving wife **MALOU**; children **MARVI & RONALD, COCOY & DIGI, CORINA, VLADE, NINI** and **VP**; parents **ROSAURO & NERINA PADILLA**; grandchildren **MARTIN, MIGUEL, MIKA & IANA**; brothers and sisters **BOY & PEDA, BEBOT & LEA, BABETTE & JUN, BENJIE & ROBERT, BAMBI & VINCENT, MARTIN & MARIE, BOLET & REY, BONGBONG & GINA**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel, #12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Our Dearly Beloved "PAPA"

PROSPERO PAGAL ARAOJO SR.

*Peacefully joined our Lord
on September 9, 2005 at the age of 74.*

His wife **FILOMENA**; children **SHIRLEY** and **BIC, GE** and **CHERRY, LET, BOBOY** and **RALEE, ALBERTO**; grandchildren **PAOLO, TRISHA, MIKEE, NICOLE, ANGEL, JOSHUA, JASON, ANYA, ALRISA, ALAN, GILBERT,** and **MAC-MAC** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES (Chapel 3-C), G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, September 16, 2005 at the La Loma Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Card of Thanks

CARMEN ENRIQUEZ ALFARO QUEBRAL

August 10, 1908 – August 19, 2005

*A precious one from us has gone
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled.
God in His wisdom has recalled,
The boon his love had given.
And though the body slumbers here,
The soul is safe in Heaven.*

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our relatives, friends and neighbors who so kindly comforted us with words of sympathy, beautiful flowers and many acts of kindness at the time of death and burial of our beloved father, grandfather and great grandfather.

Wilhelmina and Antonio Angel, children and grandchildren

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
SUNSHINE ELASTIC FABRIC MFC.

Condole with the family of

YEUNG JO CHUN
aka PETER YU

Board of Director

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on September 01, 2005 at the age of 61.*

His remains lie in state at the **Superior Chapel, LA FUNERARIA PAZ,** G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

His beloved wife, **Shuk Lam**, children, **William, Tony, Esther, Candy, Liza,** and **Susan**, son-in-law, **Sam Lau**, and grand daughter, **Susie**, request relatives, friends and the pious reader to pray for his eternal rest.

Interment will be on September 13, 2005, 8:00 A.M.
at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

In Memoriam
In loving memory of

BEATRIZ CORDOBA GUTTIERRES

*On her 1st death anniversary
April. 6, 1926 – September 11, 2004*

Holy Masses will be offered in her memory on Sunday, 11th September 2005 at the following churches:

San Miguel Parish Church *San Miguel, Manila*	6:00 p.m.
St. James, The Great Parish Church *Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish Church *B.F. Homes, Parañaque*	10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
St. Miguel's Church, Ver Gon Ville *Las Piñas City*	6:00 a.m.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

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*In loving memory on the
Fourth Death Anniversary of*

RUFINO (ROY) F. SANTOS III

Sept. 11, 2001 – WTC, New York, NY

Holy Masses will be offered
in the following churches:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia St., Bel-Air Makati City*	7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00AM; 12:00NN. & 5:00PM
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	8:45AM, 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 7:00PM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish *McKinley Road, Forbes Park Makati City*	9:00AM, 10:30AM, 12:00NN, 6:00PM
The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati City*	All Masses
San Pedro Parish *San Pedro, Laguna*	6:00AM
St. Roque Parish *Pateros, Metro Manila*	9:00AM, 10:00AM
San Guillermo Parish *Buting, Pasig City*	9:00AM

Also, Holy Masses will be offered in St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, NY, St. Vincent de Ferrer, Lexington, New York, Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, & St. Paul Parish, Richmond, B.C., Canada

His family requests relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul..

MAURA "AURING" MERCADO CALALAY

Died on Sept. 8, 2005; Age 89.

Her loved ones pray for her peaceful encounter with the Lord
SUSAN & SONNY, CHESTER & AGNES, GEG & RHEA, MAKOI & RON, TATA & MANNY, CARLING & LYN, PURING & NINA.

Her body lies in state at the Chapel of the Risen Lord, Hearts of Jesus & Mary Parish Church, West Triangle Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sept. 13, 2005, at 10 A.M.; Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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Good Price & Good Location...
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Message of Thanks
From the family of the late

NG LAM

Who passed away in the grace of our Lord on August 25, 2005

We, **ADELINA ALIVARVAR-NG** and children **ANA LISA**, **SUSAN** and **HELEN** wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all relatives and dear friends near or far who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us and expressed in countless ways your love and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: Copy of Death Certificate, Any identification document (I.D.)

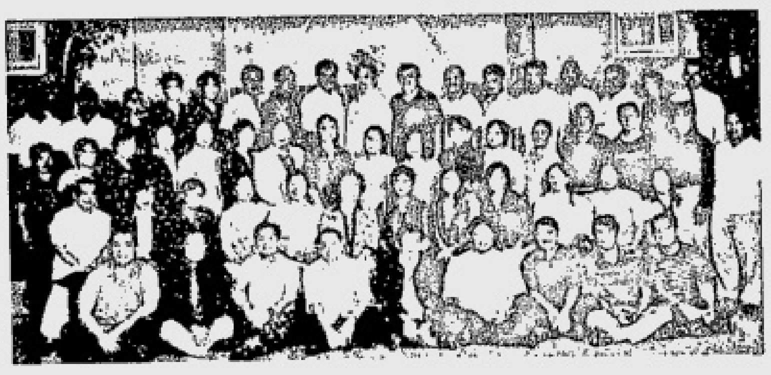
WE, the CASTRO family and the CARLOS family of

MA. CARMELINA (Ninni) CARLOS CASTRO

May 27, 1956 – August 31, 2005

by this humble measure, extend to all of you, the officers and staff of the LandBank of the Philippines and of the Bureau of Local Government Finance and to our relatives and friends our most profound and heartfelt gratitude for sharing with us our grief and sorrow by the warmth of your presence, the solace of your comforting words and the overwhelming display of your love and affection. Words will never be enough to convey the depth and real essence of our feelings. All we can say for now is ... THANK YOU, THANK YOU EVERYONE! AND MAY OUR DEAR LORD BLESS YOU ALL!!!

CLASSIFIEDS



Arlington holds a two-day seminar

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC. RECENTLY HELD A TRAINING workshop at the Robbinsdale Hotel, Quezon City entitled, "Is Your Business Dying?" It was attended by over 50 funeral home owners, managers and other professionals from all over the country. The seminar was conceived in pursuit of the vision of Nestor Lopez Jose, Arlington's founder, which is to provide client families with a highly personalized and excellent memorial service.

The two-day seminar gave attendees an opportunity to learn and understand the concepts of death and grief from different perspectives. They were taught to come up with their own vision and mission statements, which will help them formulate effective customer service strategies specifically designed for the funeral service industry. Relevant issues in the mortuary business today were also extensively tackled such as the senior citizen discount, trends in the funeral business, social responsibility and funeral protocol for state, religious and chinese funerals.

Majority of the participants commented that it helped them get a fresh perspective that will aid them in uplifting the standards of their funeral business. As a whole, the seminar was deemed a big success not only for the company but for the mortuary industry as well.

Seminar on Disaster Management

IMPERIAL CONSULTING INC. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN MANAGEMENT Association and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines brings you Disaster Management: Helping Your Business Survive and Thrive on September 21-23, at the Makati Shangri-La. For over 20 years, this seminar has helped organizations develop emergency plans that work. Learn how to put together a proven plan that's right for your business. We'll show you the best way to pinpoint vital information, evaluate key managers and information carriers in your organization and arrange alternatives for keeping your business operational even the most trying circumstances. This 3-day seminar will help you assess your company's current level of emergency readiness, understand the benefits of an integrated, enterprise-wide recovery approach, develop policies and procedures for responding to specific emergencies and will help you safeguard employees, equipment and sensitive information. For more information, call 8451324 or 7596680 or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph or visit our website at www.imperialconsulting.com.ph

10th National Seafarers' Day Celebration

ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 25 THE PHILIPPINES WILL celebrate the 10th National Seafarers' Day: it is a milestone. Since 1996, when the 1st National Seafarers' Day was celebrated, each year, on the last Sunday of September, the nation found pride in recognizing the contribution the Filipino seafarers are giving in sustaining the development of our country, in the uplifting their families' economic conditions and in being ambassadors of the best Filipino qualities through their profession.

It was early 1996 when the leaders of the Apostleship of the Sea requested the government to give to our Filipino seafarers a national tribute of recognition for their services as they face daily risks at sea and the lonely life on board. His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos, then President of the Philippines, gladly sanctioned request through a Presidential Proclamation in 1996.

The 1st National Seafarers' Day was then celebrated on board the WG&A Superferry 9. On the 10th celebrative day, it is again His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos who will be the guest of honor and main speaker at Quirino Grandstand, Rizal Park.

The Organizing Committee, with the participation of Government Administrations, Maritime Institutions and Agencies, Maritime Colleges, NGOs and Church-based Organizations, truly reflects this injunction.

Throughout the country, the event has seen various forms of celebration in cities with major ports, organized in cooperation between the Apotleship of the Sea, MARINA and Port Authorities.

In Manila, the participation to the NSD Celebration has increased from 600 (1996) to more than 7000 in 2004. For this reason, the venue had to be relocated to Quirino Grandstand, since 2001. Along these 10 years, several new features have been introduced in the celebrative program in order to make the event ever more interesting and meaningful.

The National Seafarers' Day is a tribute to all our Filipino seafarers in international and domestic ships. Therefore, both sectors are urged to participate.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilo-ilo
Municipality of Ajuy

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Date: September 4 & 11, 2005
Contract ID No.: SP-068-IN-01
World Bank Loan No.: 4446 PH

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the ***Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 1 and Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 2.*** Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*
2. The ***Municipality of Ajuy, Province of Iloilo*** invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the ***Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 1 and Construction of 10 units 2-Classroom School Building for Package 2.***
3. Bidding documents may be purchased starting ***September 12 from 8:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M.*** at the ***General Services Office, Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo, New Municipal Building*** upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ***Three Thousand Five Hundred (Php 3,500.00)*** or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain fruther information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ***ninty (90) days*** after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of ***Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php250,00.00) for Package 1 and Package 2*** in a form of cash, certified check, bank gurantee in a form specified in the bidding data and shall be delivered to the ***Office of the BAC Chairman/Municipal Engineer, Municipality of Ajuy, Iloilo, New Municipal Building*** on or before ***10:00 A.M.*** on ***October 12, 2005*** at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held at ***Ajuy Municipal Session Hall, Ajuy, Iloilo on September 27, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.***

(Sgd.) Engr. NILO HINOJALES
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 4 & 11, 2005)

Forum on DOLE Department Order

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) ISSUED several Department Orders (DO)which mandate all business establishments and workplaces in the private sector to formulate and implement company policies and programs for the workers protection, benefit and welfare.

The participation of the representatives from the labor sectors and management in the formulation and administration of the policies and programs are required.

To inform the industrial partners about the pertinent provisions and features of the various DOLE Dept. Orders thus help them in the formulation and administration of the policies and programs, a forum will be held on Sept. 14, (Wednesday) from 1-5 p.m., at the Bonifacio Hall, UP Solair, Diliman, Quezon City.

Interested parties may register with the PIRS Secretariat (Eileen) at 942-7833.

Rebap conducts CRESR

THE REAL ESTATE BROKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES INC (Rebap) – Caloocan City Chapter will conduct a Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review (CRESR) on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, at the Rotary Center, Roces Ave, cor. Mother Ignacia St., Quezon City (all Saturdays) from 1 to 6 p.m. This seminar will prepare the participants for the Brokers Licensure Exam to be held on Nov. 27. For more information, please call the following numbers: 438-2966 and look for Jane or Rene and at 373-2280 to 81 and look for Lenie of Vicky. Seminar director is CRB Delby S. Pero. Call now to avail of their seminar promo.

PHILAM

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **Ms. Rosanna "Rose" S. Medina** whose picture and address appear below has ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of the termination of her agency contract effective April 30, 2005.

MS. ROSANNA "ROSE" S. MEDINA
Poblacion, St. Pilar, Bataan 2101

Any transaction made or entered into by this person for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after April 30, 2005 is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI - Sept. 11, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) would like to invite suppliers and providers for the following goods:

InFocus LCD LP600 Projector 37 units	
Brightness	2000 max ANSI Lumens
Contrast ratio	1000: 1
Data compatibility	SXGA, XGA, SVGA, VGA, Macintosh, HDTV 1080i, 1080p, 720p, 480p
Display	DLP 7" DDR DDP2000
Video compatibility	STDV (NTSC, PAL, SECAM) ED/HDTV (Component, RGBHV and DVI for these signal formats: 480p, 576p, 720p, 1080i
Native resolution	XGA 1024 x 768

All prices should be free from all duties and taxes and should be valid for the next six (6) months. Interested bidders are required to submit the following documents:

- Company profile
- Registration papers (SEC with Articles of Incorporation, DTI, Mayor's Permit, VAT, etc.)
- List of branches or distribution network or service centers
- Track record in supplying to institutional clients in huge volumes
- Proposed methodology for providing goods specifically indicating procedures, delivery response time, invoicing, payment requirements, etc.
- Price list of goods

UNFPA does not and cannot guarantee nor commit any volume within the 6-month validity of the price.

Deadline for submission of bids is no **Friday, 23 September 2005 at 4:30 p.m.** All bids should be addressed to:

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, 1226 Makati City
Tel. No. 901-0313 Fax No. 901-0348

Please look for Ms. Lanites Manansala

UNFPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer. UNFPA assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for the contract.

(Sgd.) **MARIA ROSARIO B. PERALTA**
Administrative Associate, a.i.

(PDI–Sept. 11, 2005)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

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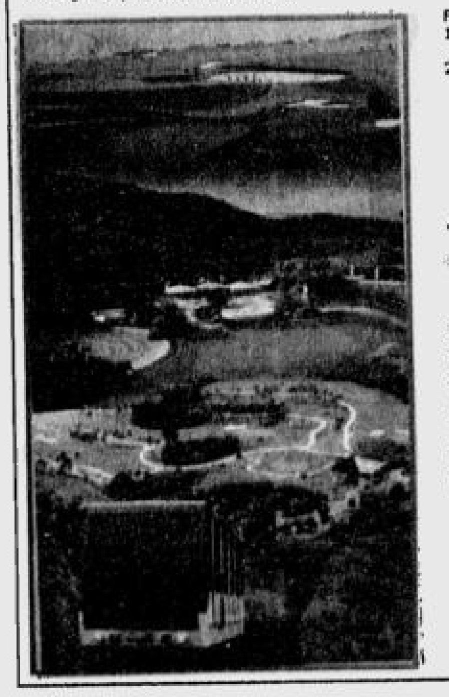
present

CREBA-HUDCC
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2005 SUPPLEMENT

October 12 will mark the start of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders' Assoications, Inc. (CREBA) and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) National Convention at Tagaytay Highlands, Tagaytay City carrying the theme **"Linking the Best in Philippine Property and Tourism to the World".**

To promote the event, the **Inquirer Classifieds** will publish a special supplement on **October 9, 2005** which will feature developers, government agencies, local government units, schools, media outfits, banks, private and public financing institutions and suppliers and contractors. This magazine promises to provide maximum media mileage to you, our advertisers.



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HALF PAGE	24.6 cms x 15 cms	28,297.50
1/4 PAGE	12.3 cms x 15cms	14,148.75
1/8 PAGE	12.3 cms x 7.5 cms	7,074.38

4. Announcement of the supplement to be released in the Classifieds Section
5. Free copies of the Supplement to be distributed during the convention proper.

Circulated in Metro Manila and backed up by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the most read broadsheet in the land, this guarantees to be a most cost efficient and effective venture.

To find out more about the supplement, please contact:

Ms. Aileen Garcia	912-9009 / 421-1420
Ms. Dhel Mendoza	912-9010 / 421-0343

Email: agarcia@inquirer.com.ph

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL	MATERIAL DEADLINE
TIF Format 300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution) CMYK Mode	October 3, 2005

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*For minimum loan amount of P1Million

Promo period from August 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005
Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4713, Series of 2005

Sunday BIZ

Quezon now on coffee map

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN ANTONIO, QUEZON—WILFREDO GARING grew up with the smell of newly harvested coffee berries and the fine aroma of brewed coffee.

Thus the locals of the town at the boundary of Quezon and Batangas were not surprised when Fred, a Mass Communications graduate of the Far Eastern University, left his job in a marketing firm in Metro Manila to set up Café de San Antonio, now the only commercial coffee brewer in Quezon.

"My aim is for Quezon coffee to be recognized and have a name of its own," says the 26-year-old.

Through Cafe de San Antonio, Fred says he wants to satisfy the caffeine cravings of Filipinos and foreigners.

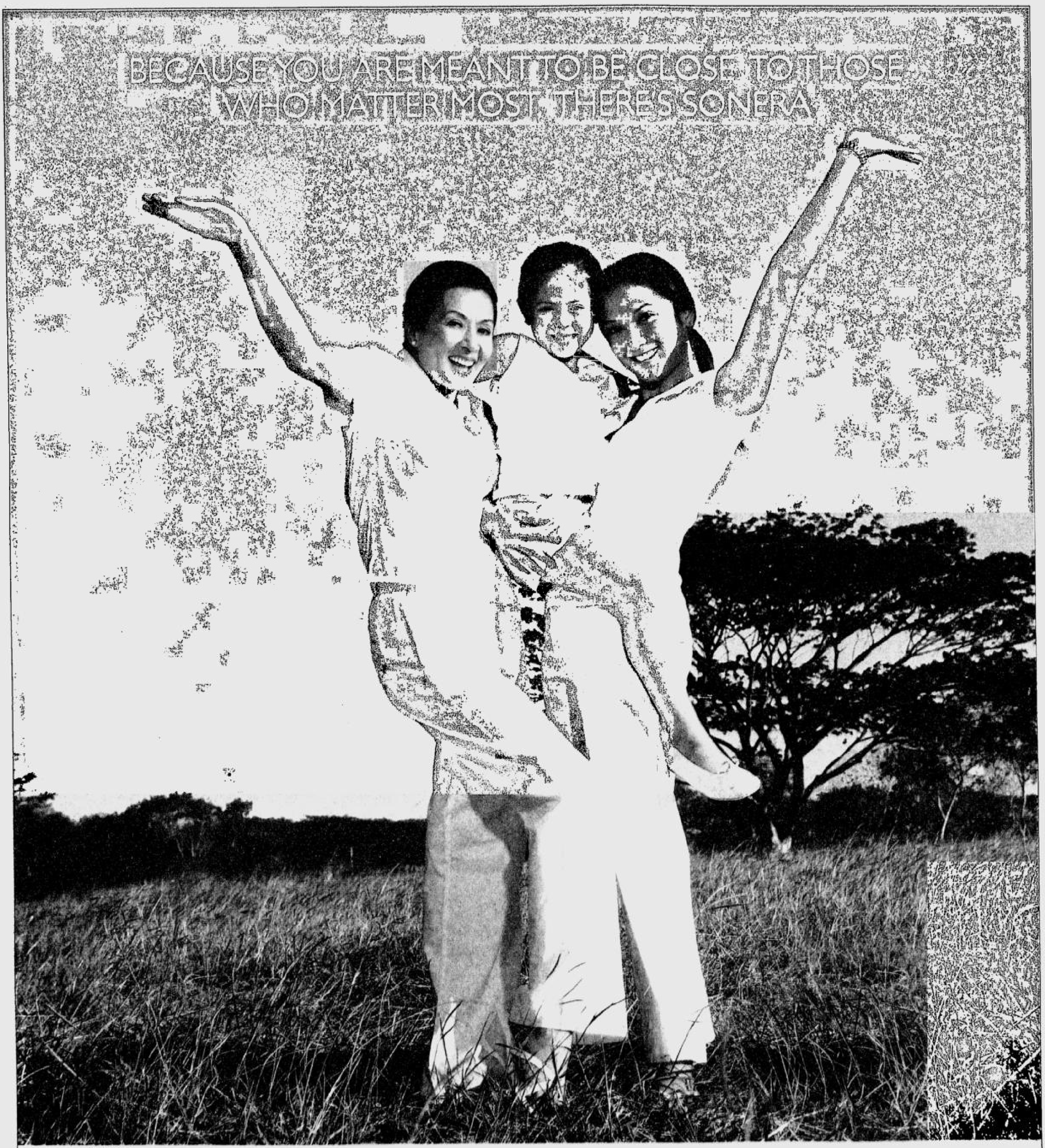
With his pioneering thrust to place the province on the country's coffee map, Fred's Café de San Antonio brew has been adopted by the provincial government as the official coffee of Quezon.

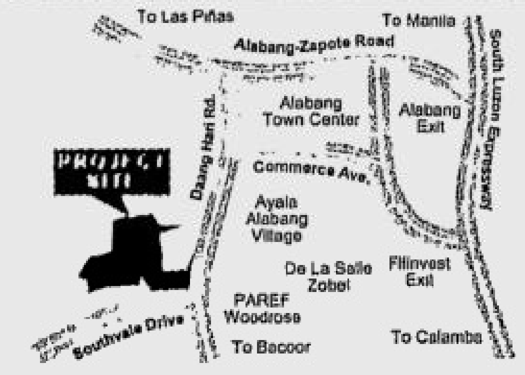
Filipinos consume about 55,000 tons of coffee and are now becoming more appreciative of the brew and concoctions, he says.

Influence

Fred's keen interest in the coffee business was influenced by his father, Silvestre, who tends a 27-hectare coffee farm in Barangay Bulihan, some 10 kilometers away from the town proper.

LOCAL/B5


BECAUSE YOU ARE MEANT TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE
WHO MATTER MOST, THERE'S SONERA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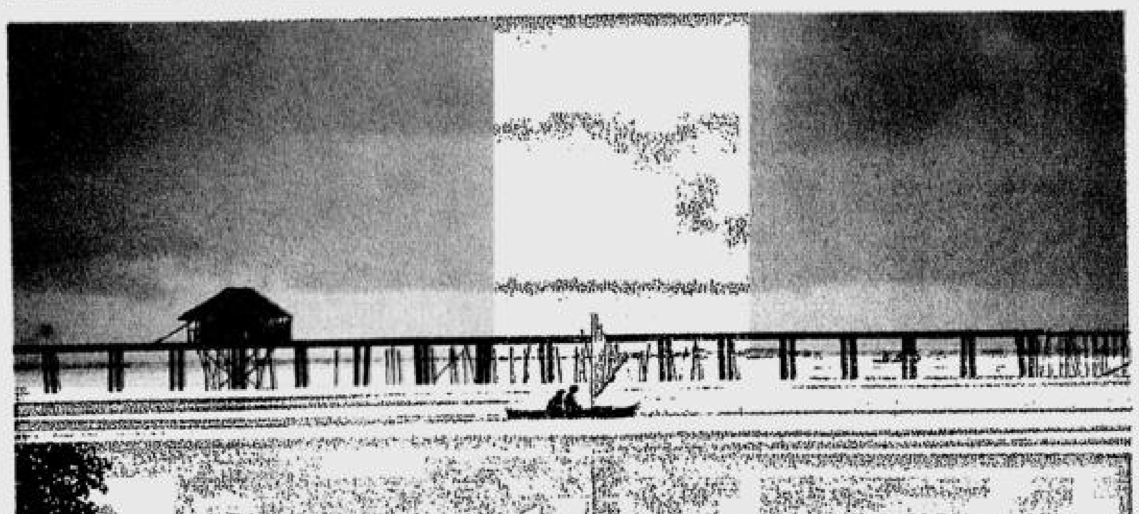
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**



STILL waters by travel photographer George Tapan

AFGHAN children washing clothes with their mothers at the refugee camps in Pakistan, in this photo by Dennis Sabangan

Photographing life

By Cheche V. Moral

ANYONE CAN USE A camera. Unfortunately, not everyone can be a photographer. But how do you know what you're capable of unless you try?

Enthusiasts, hobbyists and professionals will converge on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at The Loft in Rockwell, Makati City, to learn the nitty-gritty of photography in seminar-workshops to be conducted by some of the most recognized names in Philippine photography.

The event is part of the PDI Foto Expo Digital Weekend, a three-day trade fair and exhibit at the Rockwell Tent, presented by the INQUIRER and cbv7 Media Master, with Fuji-YKL, Kodak, Konika-Minolta, Nikon and JT Photoworld.

Natural

Nowadays, a person's life may be documented from birth (or even while still in the womb) with photographs. Thus, at least for some, the inclination toward the camera seems almost natural.

But in the past, says fashion and advertising photographer Xander Angeles, it was daunting to get into photography because of the expense. "The digital revolution changed all that. Among other things, it did away with the developing process, which is expensive. You can now show your photos right away."

This has led to a boom in fancy-camera-toting denizens all wanting to break into the business.

"It pays well, plus there's the promise of becoming well-known," adds Angeles, one of the country's young and more successful photographers. His most recognized works include calendars for the magazine FHM. Some people have other motives. "They think it's a way to get girls!"

Of course, while many are called, only a few are chosen.

"A lot of young (rich) kids come to apprentice with me," Angeles says, "but only a few stay on. One can only teach them so much. You have to have the passion, the love for it. If your intent is only to get famous and get girls..." His voice trails off.

His colleagues agree. The equipment and technical know-how are only half of it, says renowned travel photographer George Tapan. "Talent plays a big part. A lot of your personality comes in. It's only hard if you don't love the craft."

A 30-year veteran, Tapan's work has taken him on journeys to the remotest corners of the globe as he captured images that have transported his audience on their own personal visual expeditions.

Unlike fashion photography where one works with a creative team, travel photography is a solitary effort, says Tapan. "My job is like that of a writer, except I'm telling the story with images, not words," he explains. Tapan says his job entails a lot of research—knowing the place, the culture, the history. "It requires patience. You have to be at

PHOTOGRAPHING/ C2

TEARY-EYED Afghan boy northeast of Kabul, in Afghanistan, photographed by Aaron Favila

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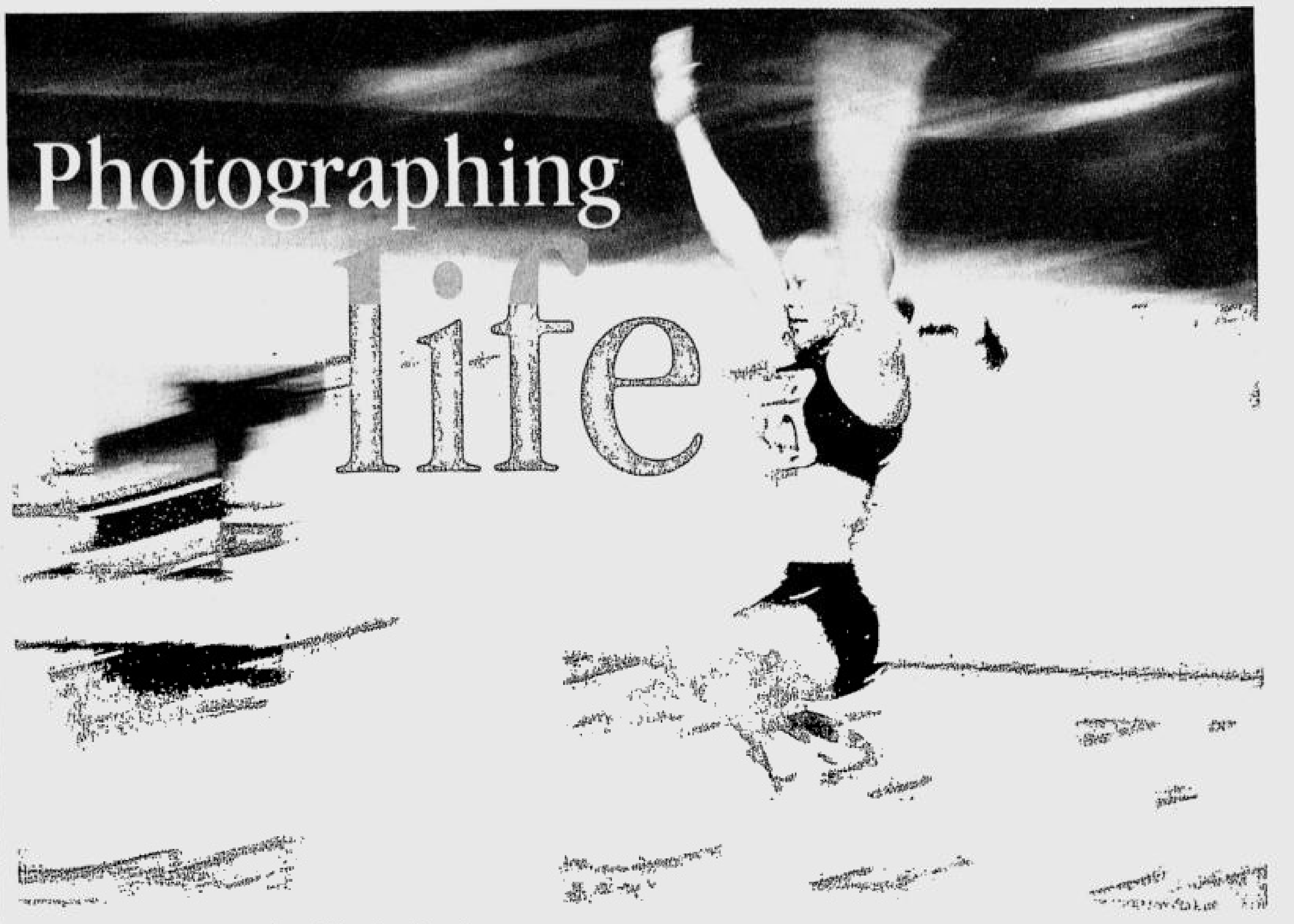
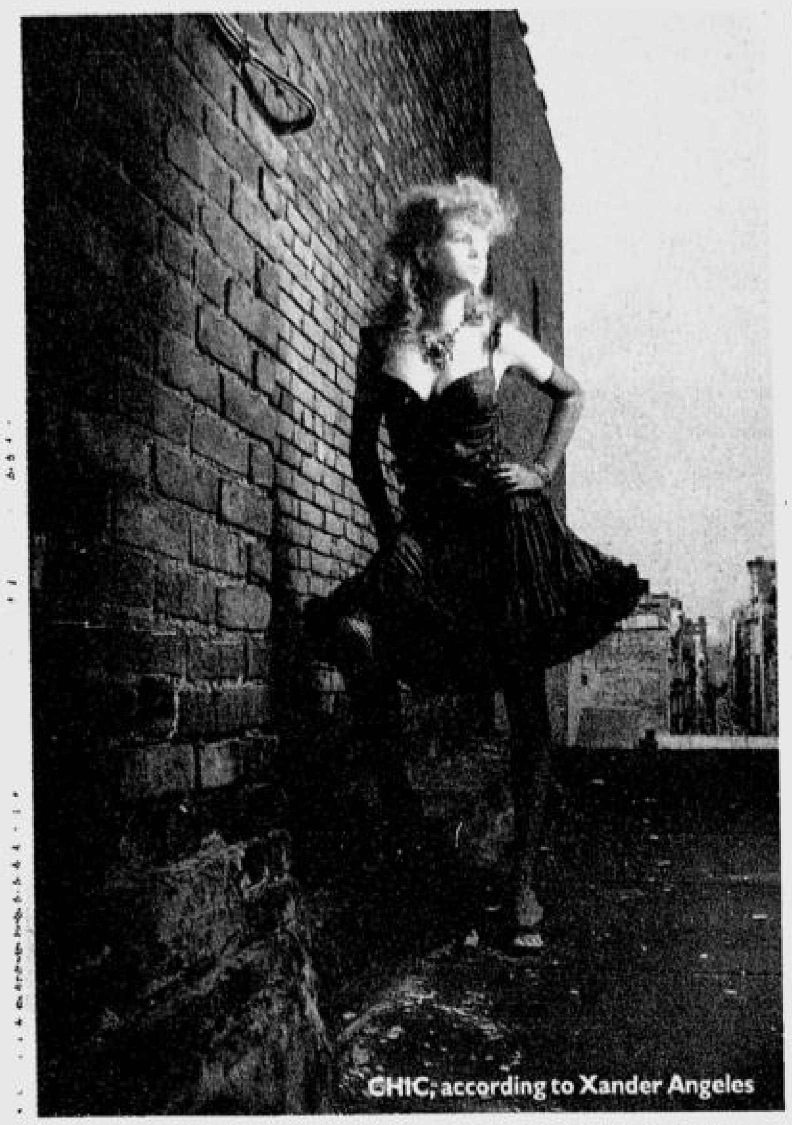
Photographing life



ERNIE Sarmiento captures the exhiliration of sports.



CHIC, according to Xander Angeles

JONATHAN Avila toys with digital darkroom techniques.

From page C1

the site early to familiarize yourself with its features."

Know-how

Training accounts for a lot, the pros agree, especially when you're photographing people. Some are content with mastering the equipment, but they lack the know-how to motivate their human subjects.

Having photographed "80 percent of (local) celebrities and socialites" in his career that spans over 15 years, no one knows this better than portraitist and glamour and nude photographer Dominique James. He has been conducting seminars for both wannabe models and photographers in various venues.

"A photographer should know that the subjects are emotional beings who move a lot," James says. "The work is a collaboration between subject and photographer, so you should know what to ask of your subject," whether s/he is a celebrity or not.

The task of a glamour photographer, according to him, is "to create an illusion. Reality is too harsh. Besides, once the subject puts on makeup, that's already an illusion in itself."

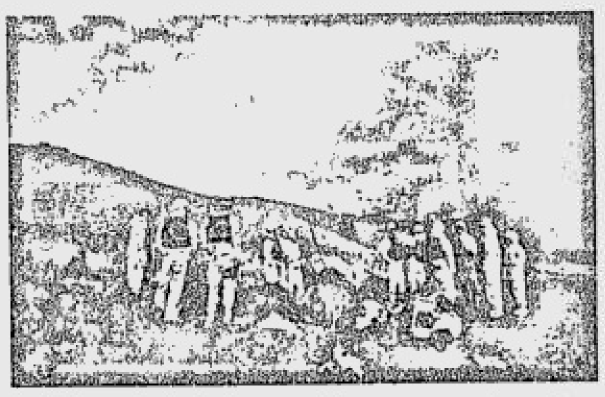
In his field, James says, it is vital to not be star-struck. "I respect my subjects, but I don't hold them in awe. I think the only difference between celebrities and regular people is that the former are used to being photographed... There are no bad subjects, only bad photographers."

While it is imperative to train, James contends a creative eye must be intrinsic. "You have to have a visual inclination, a certain style. Plus, you have to have discipline."

Creative process

It's the same discipline that advertising photographers know only too well.

Unlike other visual artists who work alone, John K. Chua has to work with a creative and business team to translate his photographs into the multimillion-peso campaigns that grace print ads and billboards.



US SOLDIERS watch as a rainbow appears after rains in southern Afghanistan, in this photo by Aaron Favila.

For 30 years, Chua has been handling such big-time accounts, including about 80 percent of the auto industry. He knows how crucial reliability and professionalism are in his field—"no matter what happens."

But it shouldn't be construed that ad photographers are always at the mercy of clients, Chua stresses. It is instead a compromise, an appeal to the photographer to implement the concept and translate the idea into effective visual images.

"Ad photos should move people," Chua says. "They shape our view of the world, they affect our lives so, as a photographer, you must show the product in the best light."

Chua's lecture will cover not so much the technical aspect of ad photography, but tips on penetrating the market and surviving it.

"I'd like to share my mistakes when I was starting so young photographers can avoid them," he says. "Others think your work can only be good if you have the best equipment. You have to make do with whatever you can afford, and if you have talent, you can make up for it."

Stalwarts

Aside from fashion, travel, glamour and nude, and advertising shutterbugs, seven stalwarts of Philippine photojournalism will also begiving lectures. INQUIRER photo chief Ernie Sarmiento will talk on sports photography, and INQUIRER photo editor Boy Cabrido and Manila Times photo chief Albert Garcia, on photojournalism.

YOUNG bombing victim in Afghanistan by Dennis M. Sabangan

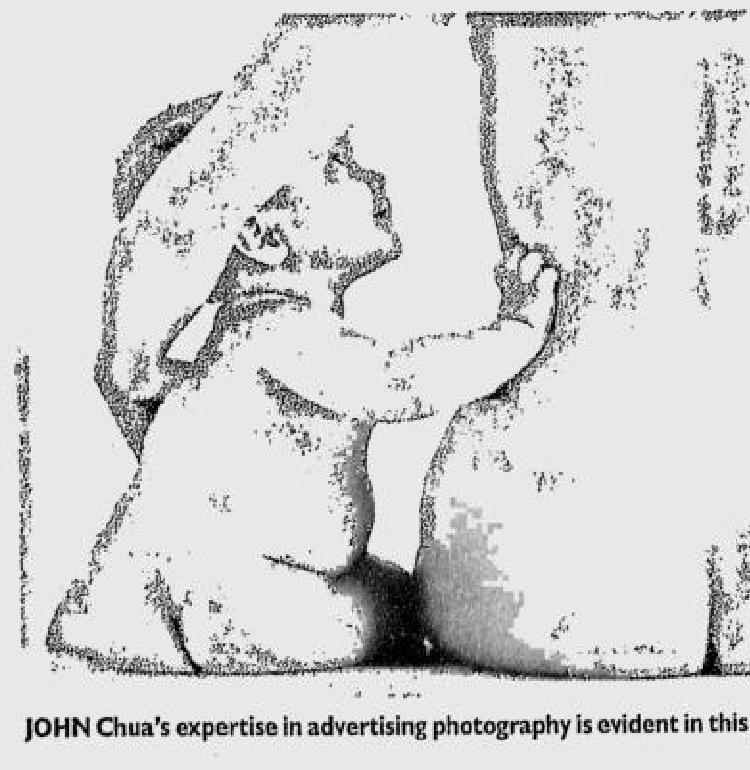
Award-winning lensmen Erik de Castro (chief photographer, Reuters-Philippines), Dennis Sabangan (Manila bureau chief, European Pressphoto Agency), Bullit Marquez (chief photographer, Associated Press-Philippines) and Aaron Favila (Associated Press-Philippines) will talk on their experiences covering the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Southern Philippines.

Jonathan Avila will lecture on digital darkroom technique.

Three-day seminar-workshop fee is P3,500. Deadline for registration is on Sept. 15. Call Chito Vecina at 0917-8554195, or Themes & Motifs at 3719783/4100032/6353267.

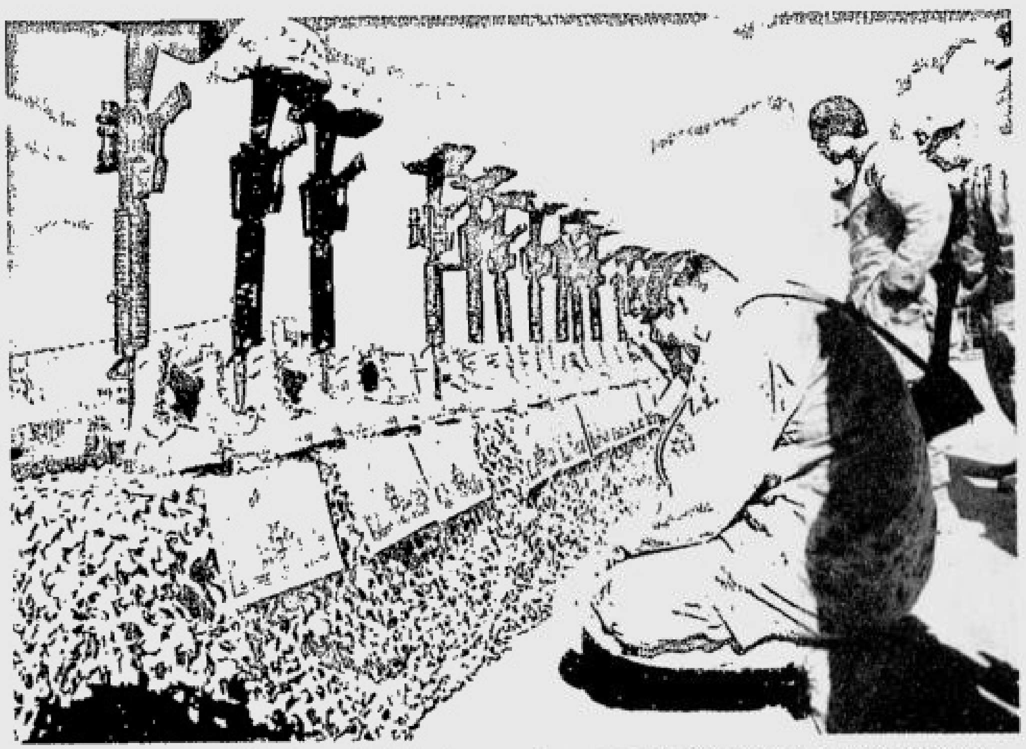
SULTRY Joyce Jimenez in revealing pose before photographer Dominique James

GEORGE Tapan's keen traveller's eye is reflected in this photo.



JOHN Chua's expertise in advertising photography is evident in this picture.

Some of the most recognized names in Philippine photography will conduct seminars on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Rockwell



ERIK de Castro took this shot of US Marines paying respect to fellow Marines who died in a helicopter crash at US base Camp Korean village west of Ar Rutbah, Iraq.

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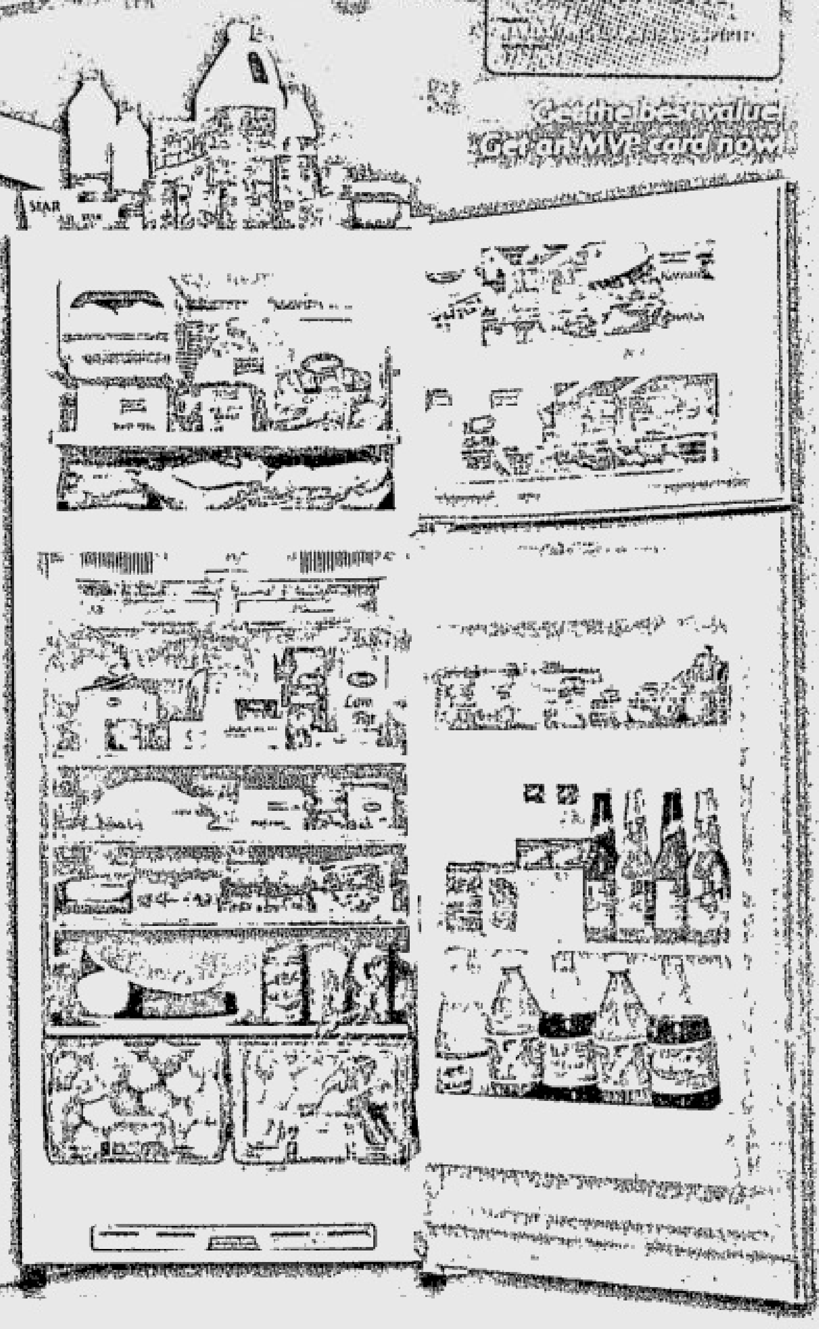

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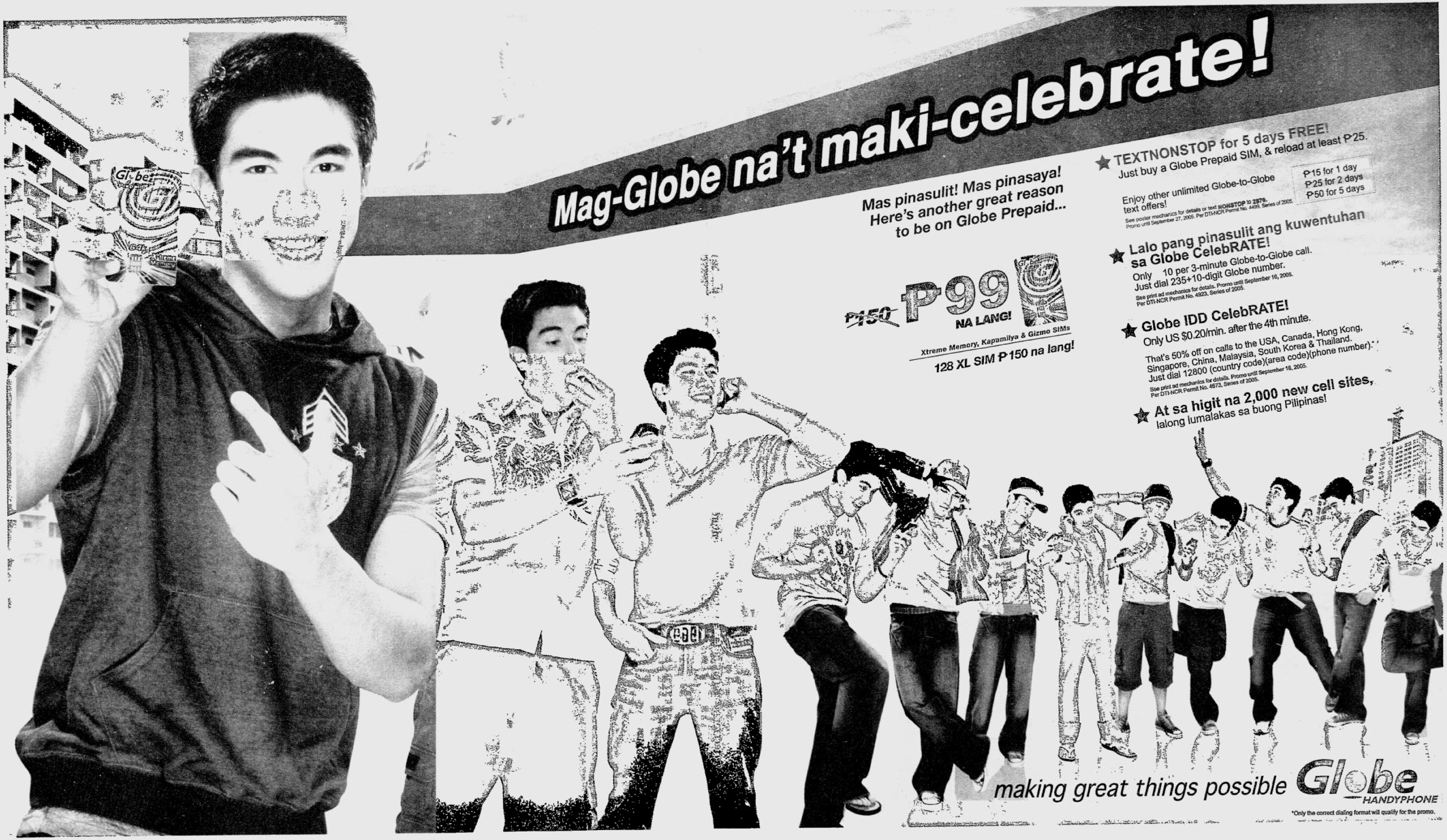

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See print ad mechanics for details. Promo until September 16, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4923, Series of 2005.

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ORIGINAL altar of the Jabonga Catholic Church with its retablo made of fine wood and has elaborate designs

Two faces of Agusan del Norte

Text and photos by Joel V. Nigos

AGUSAN DEL NORTE, SITUATED IN THE NORTHERN PART OF Mindanao, is a small and quiet province rich in heritage and culture. At the same time it boasts of several wonderful gifts of nature that are perfect for people on the lookout for some adventure.

Butuan City, the province's capital, is the site of the oldest settlement in the Philippines dating back to the 3rd century. Recent archeological findings prove the existence by the river of a prehistoric city.

It is believed that Butuan City is where Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan proclaimed Spanish sovereignty over the Philippines in 1521. The 1872 Magellan marker, which claimed that the first Mass was held in Butuan on April 8, 1521, was erected by the Spanish governor José Maria Carvallo. A monument containing the marker can be seen by the bank of the Agusan River, at Butuan's former *poblacion* known today as the town of Magallanes after the Spanish conquistador.

Also in Magallanes is the 500-year-old Bitaog tree. At over 300 ft in diameter and situated along the national highway, the tree is the oldest and the largest specimen in the Philippines still accessible to people. It will take about 12 people with arms outstretched to fully embrace the tree's trunk.

Unique phenomenon

Relics and cultural artifacts abound in Agusan del Norte, among them the *balanghai* boat, which was discovered in Ambangan, Libertad. This wooden plank-built and edge-pegged boats averaged 15 meters in length and three meters wide across the beam. The maritime vessel and the cultural artifacts found with it are associated with an affluent seafaring people. The finds have no parallel in Southeast Asian prehistoric archeology.

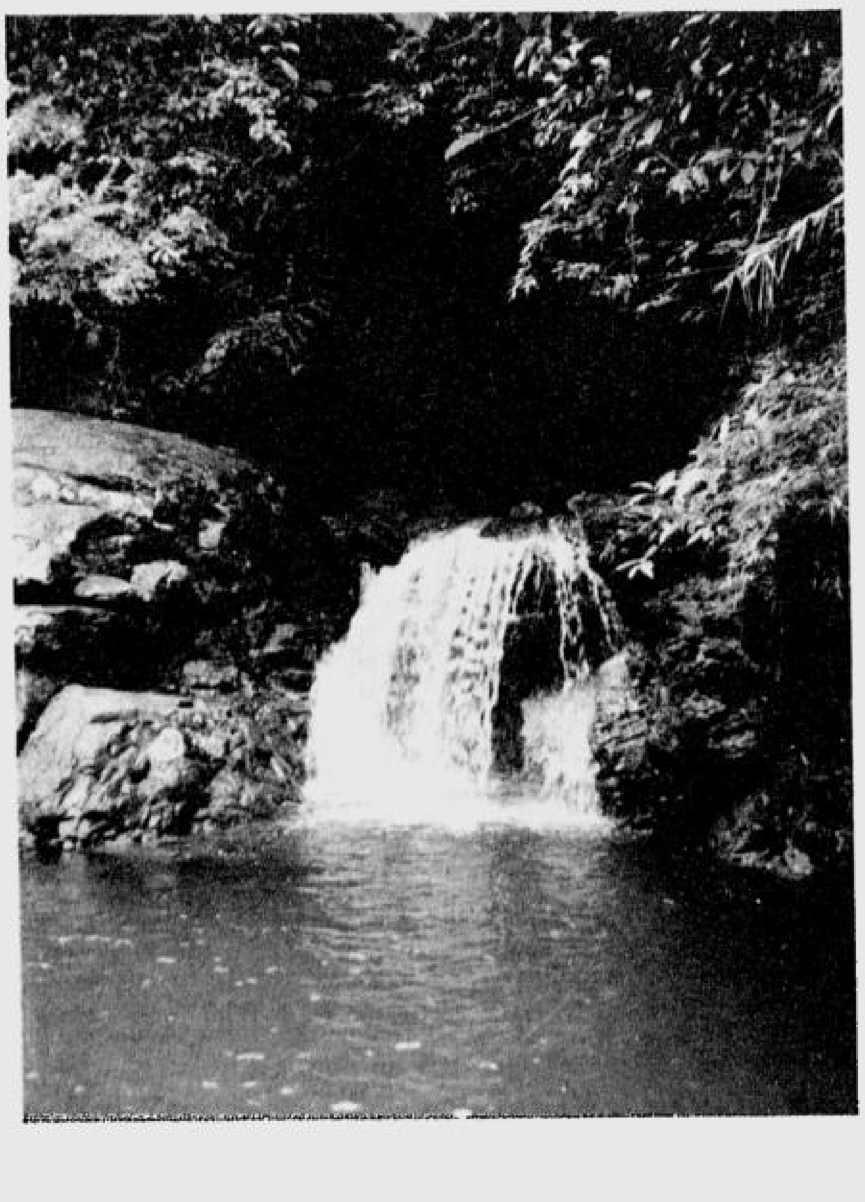
At present, and with research and excavation still ongoing, 11 boats have been dug so far. The first boat, the biggest so far, is 16 meters long and three meters wide. It is now displayed at the Shrine Musuem in Butuan City. The second boat is displayed at the National Museum in Manila.

So far, relics and artifacts that have been found date back to 320 A.D. This proves that the area was a big flourishing settlement and trade center in Southeast Asia at around 700 B.C.

Old churches and houses that date back to the 1800's also dot some towns of Agusan del Norte. In Cabadbaran are the Atega Mansion and the Candelaria Church. At nearby Jabonga is the Our Lady of Assumption Parish. Built in 1878 in native molave or *tugas*, its original *retablo* made of fine wood and with very elaborate designs is still intact.

The original church bell can be found in the nearby parochial museum, as well as chalices,

TWO/D2



LOBOC Busay (spring) at the coastal town of Jabonga and near the province's boundary with Surigao del Norte

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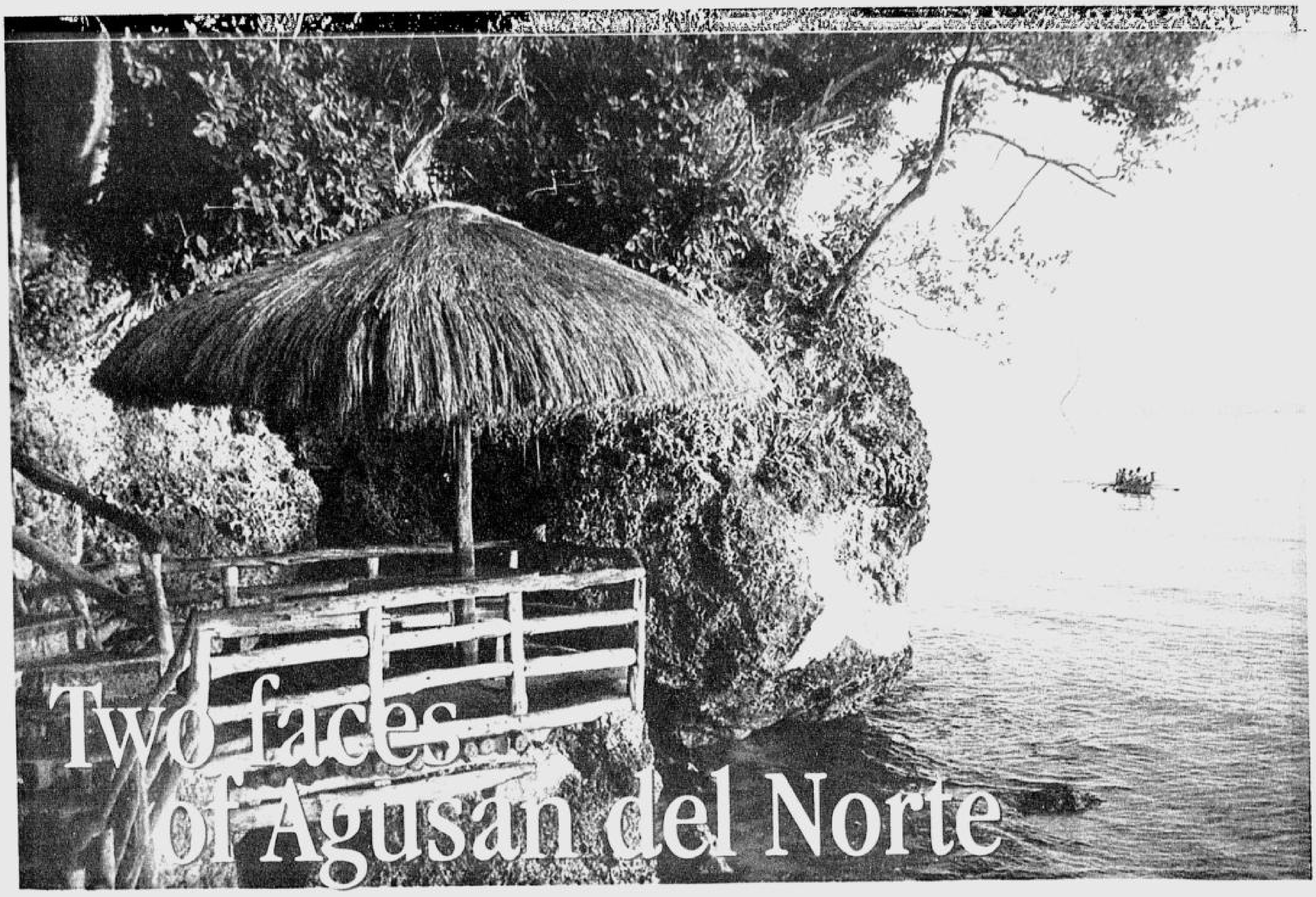
Two faces of Agusan del Norte



ONE of 15 dive sites in Carmen. Agusan province has a total of 22.

From page D1

crucifixes and a Latin Missal that were all used in early church celebrations.

Natural wonders

The province is also blessed with great natural wonders. Ecotourism activities like spelunking, canoeing and kayaking use indigenous materials. This makes them highly sustainable and not capital intensive. The canoe used by residents for fishing and for cruising are made of native narra. They are usually referred to as dug-out canoe.

At Lake Mainit, the famed freshwater lake so-called because of its warm water, is where the fluvial procession in honor of Our Lady of Assumption, Jabonga's patroness, is observed. It is also where the Caraga 30-km Baroto Marathon is held during the celebration of the Araw ng Agusan del Norte in June.

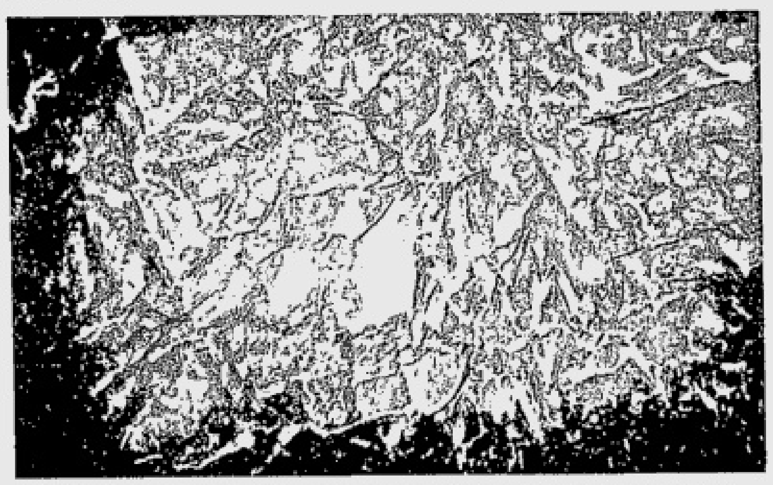
A confluence of 28 rivers, this 17,430-ha lake situated 80 ft above sea level with a mean depth of 128 meters is the 4th biggest in the country. It also has a total of 87,072 ha of total watershed areas.

Kalinawan River

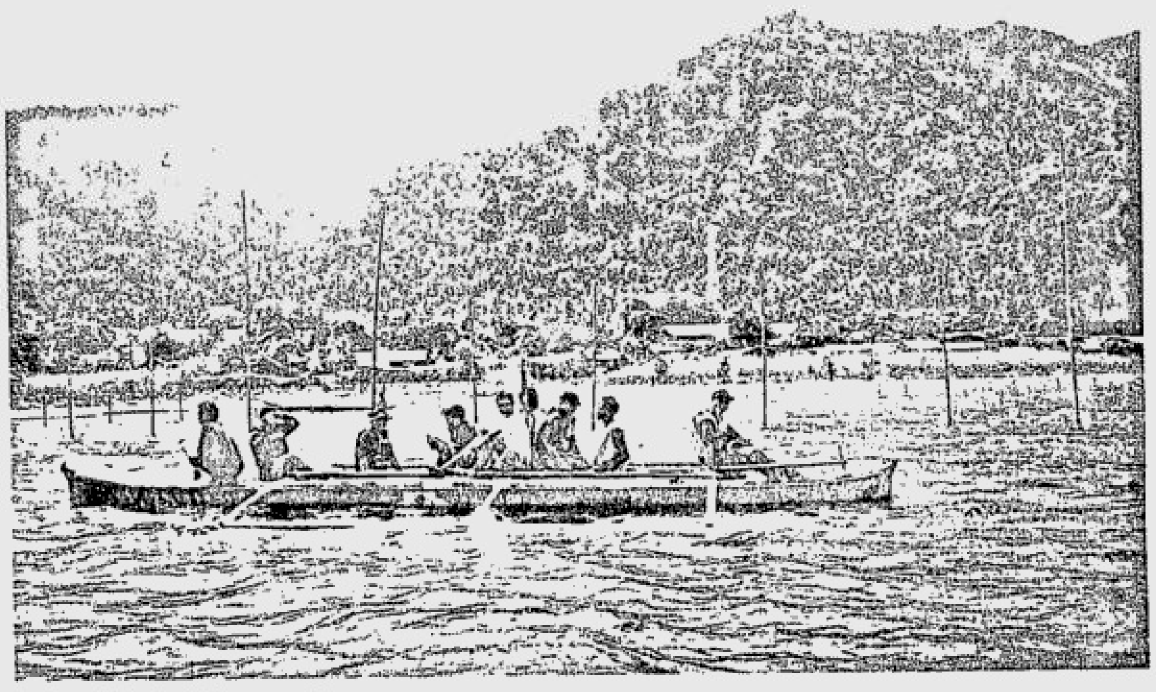
The Kalinawan River, where the lake empties its water, is where endemic as well as endangered flora and fauna are found.

The *pidjanga*, regarded as a delicacy by both local and visiting folks, as well as the *gabot*, freshwater eel (*kasili*), carp and *tilapia* (nilotica) are a source of livelihood to residents. Freshwater flowers such as the pink and white *pagosi* (sacred lotus) and *tabukali* (water hyacinth) add splendor to the lake. These flowers are also used to make handicrafts such as slippers, baskets and bags.

The river's lush vegetation that typifies the Agusan marshland and the migratory birds which frequent the area make it simply perfect for cruising and game fishing. Eagles gliding over the water waiting for their preys create a wonderful scene. Giant purple herons and fowls believed to be from Siberia come during summer for breeding. It takes 45 minutes by motorboat to cruise the entire river.



GOLD and silver deposits are found in these stones inside Lepanto Tunnel 240.



CRUISING the Kalinawan River

Dive sites

Scuba diving is also a growing activity in the area. A total of 22 dive sites dot the entire province—with 15 in the municipality of Carmen, six in Jabonga and one in Tubay. The waters at Carmen provide an excellent 80 ft of visibility. The profile ranges from sloping walls to cliffs ranging from 40 to over 100 ft. Its reef life is bountiful, with soft and hard corals plus abundant reef and pelagic fishes, and has generally white sandy floors.

The Jabonga and Tubay dive sites, meanwhile, are generally rock formations—crevices, caves, alleys, overhands, walls—with depths ranging from 45 to over 200 ft. Pelagics abound together with snappers, sweetlips and trevallies. Fish life is bountiful.

Lepanto Tunnel 240

A walk through the stretch of the first level of the Lepanto Tunnel is an added attraction. It leads to what was in the '60s and the '70s a mining site for gold, silver and copper by the Lepanto Mining Company (hence the name).

The whole tunnel stretches up to 1.5 km which can be traversed via normal pace in about an hour. Its height and width are both 14 ft and has five lateral levels with vertical connections at the rear end of the tunnel. Currently, only the first level is open for viewing to the public. Located in the municipality of Cabadbaran, a large number of gold millers are still around the area. Gold panning from resident millers can be frequently viewed.

Going to the province is no problem since there are daily flights from Manila and Cebu. It is also easily accessible by ship from Manila, Cebu and Bohol. The peace and order situation should not be a concern since the province belongs to the Caraga Region, which statistics would show, is the country's most peaceful region.

E-mail the author at jnigos@inquirer.com.ph

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Log on to www.eastwestbanker.com or call East West Bank's customer service hotline at 888-17 or, toll-free, 1-800-10-8-ACCESS (1-800-10-8222377) for provincial areas.

Asiana flies to Windy City

Asiana Airlines now flies three times weekly from Manila to Chicago, Illinois via Seoul. Starting Sept. 13, Asiana Airlines takes to the East Coast almost daily as it flies to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York every Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Flights to Chicago depart from Manila at 1 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Call 8925681 to 88.

China Dive Expo

The Philippines has been chosen by Suntec Integrated Media (Singapore) to join China Dive Expo on Sept. 23-25 at Shanghai Exhibition Centre. Invited to join and exhibit at the expo are those into dive equipment, accessories and supplies, tour and travel industry, underwater photographers and videographers, adventure sporting goods, dive organizations, diving-related publications. Call 8130148/ 8438878.

Enchanting deal

Discovery Country Suites offers the Enchanted Kingdom package until Oct. 31. Families who book a room will automatically get two complimentary passes to Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Discovery Country Suites' room rates range from P7,000+ to P10,500+. Discovery Country Suites is located at 300 Calamba Road, San Jose, Tagaytay City. Call (046) 4134567/ (02) 6838383.

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New SIA website

Log on to www.singaporeair.com/ph for exciting offers in the improved SIA website. Available in English, Korean, Japanese, traditional and simplified Chinese, French and German, customers can easily access local airfares and travel packages, make online bookings, reserve their seats and avail of Internet check-in using the new website. KrisFlyer members will find it easier to update their personal details, check their mileage status and redeem flights at 15-percent discount.

Warm welcome from Lufthansa

Lufthansa German Airlines extends its Welcome Service at its Frankfurt and Munich hubs. The service aims to assist international passengers by providing important info about ticket inquiries, baggage claim, transit schedules, departure gates or other airport facilities in their own languages. Currently, the service is offered in 13 languages.

Peak promo

Camp John Hay offers a conference package "Convene at The Peak." It combines superb accommodations, world-class convention facilities, excellent food and beverage selections, and the best recreational facilities. For P5,900 per person, the package includes a two-day/three-night accommodation in a Superior Room at The Manor.

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PAN EURO
INTERNATIONAL

KENYA AIRWAYS-IAS JOINT VENTURE
Kenya Airways (KQ) and International Airline Services (IAS) recently finalized partnership in their marine reservations and ticketing outsourcing venture. Shown doing the ceremonial handshake are IAS general manager Jennifer Dayrit and KQ country manager-Far East Merita A. Ombour, with KQ regional sales manager Nipon Suddhidhanakool. Flanking them are passenger sales representatives Ivan Go and Glenn Pineda, general manager Greenie Dee, and operations manager Betty Ngo-Yu, all from Pan-Euro International, Kenya Airways' general sales agent (KQ GSA) here in the Philippines.

Cooperative sanctuary

Malagos Garden Resort was certified as the first property in the Philippines and the 39th in the world as highest rating for Wildlife and Habitat Management, Waste Management and Outreach Education by Audobon International, a nonprofit environmental education organization. A Certified Audobon Cooperative Sanctuary, Malagos Garden Resort hosts rare collections of indigenous Philippine flora and fauna, several species of butterflies and rescued and rehabilitated birds. Malagos Garden Resort is located in Davao City.

Amazing race

Edsa Shangri-La Manila recently held its version of the hit TV reality show, "Amazing Race." The event was part of the hotel's Rewards, an incentive program for secretaries and frequent bookers. Twenty-five Rewards members teamed up with the hotel's sales and marketing staff to race for clues from designated pit stops within the hotel. The first three teams to reach the final pit stop won prizes.

Cebu gets another honorary consul

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

CEBU'S ROSTER OF honorary consuls has increased. **Grand Benedicto** has just been installed honorary consul of Romania by **Radu Homescu**, the Romanian Ambassador to the Philippines, in ceremonies at the ballroom of the Cebu Country Club. The ambassador was accompanied by his wife, Mme. **Georgeta Homescu**.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) was represented by chief of protocol, Ambassador **José Zaide**, who came with his wife, **Victoria**.

The Romanian embassy's first secretary and counselor, **Doris Serban**, was there with his wife, Mme. **Annelise**. He visited Cebu last year with Ambassador Homescu to meet the city's business luminaries.

Beaming with happiness were members of Grand's immediate family—his wife **Genevieve** and parents **Enrique** (he is Belgium's honorary consul here) and **Helena**, and uncle **Ceferino**, honorary consul of Albania in Manila.

During the program hosted by **Mila Espina**, the ambassador paid tribute to Grand's dynamism. Grand, in turn, thanked him for trusting him with so exalted a post.

A sumptuous buffet was served with wines from Romania. About 200 guests attended, among them Cebu Gov. **Gwen Garcia** and her father, former Gov. **Pablo Garcia**, Mayor **Tommy** and **Margot Osmeña** with their son **Miguel**, Vice Mayor **Mike Rama**, Rep. **Antonio Cuenco**, and many more.

Belgium national day

A few weeks, the National Day of Belgium was celebrated in the same venue, the third year the occasion was marked in Cebu.

Joint hosts were Belgian Ambassador and Mrs. Christiaan Tanghe, and Honorary Consul of Belgium in Cebu and Mrs. Enrique Benedicto. Christiaan and Gul took the opportunity to say farewell as their stay in the Philippines is ending.

BELGIAN Ambassador Christiaan Tanghe and Mme. Gul Tanghe, Helena Benedicto and Belgium's honorary consul in Cebu, Enrique Benedicto

Toasts were made to the continued friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Consul **Angel Espiritu**, director of the regional DFA office, pointed out this was the 175th anniversary of Belgium as an independent kingdom.

It had its first king in 1830. The current ruler is King **Albert II**. He has three children with Italian Princess **Paola Ruffo de Calabria**. Heir to the throne is their eldest son, Crown Prince **Philip** who has a daughter, Princess **Elizabeth**, who will one day become Belgium's first reigning queen.

Romania has centuries of history, too, back to the Roman times. In 1866, it freed itself from the Ottoman empire and became an independent kingdom.

Prince **Charles** of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen (related to the dynasty that ruled Prussia and the German Empire) was Romania's first king, officially known as **Carol I**.

The last king, **Michael**, assumed the throne at the end of World War II but, with Romania becoming a satellite of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, he was exiled.

Michael married Princess **Anne** of Bourbon-Parma and they have four daughters. He is an old man now, albeit energetic, and spry enough to return to his former kingdom. He and his family were received warmly.

They expressed not as much interest in reclaiming Romania's throne as in helping the country realize its full potential and become a prosperous and progressive nation.

ROMANIA'S honorary consul in Cebu, Grand Benedicto; Mme. Georgeta Homescu, Romanian Ambassador Radu Homescu, Genevieve Benedicto, Annelise and Doris Surban, first secretary of the Romanian Embassy

Hypermart opens in Malate

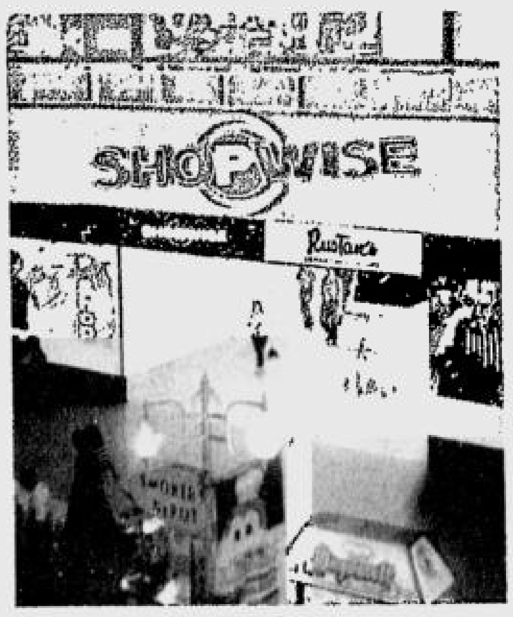
RETAIL GIANT SHOPWISE WILL open on Sept. 18 its newest store at Harrison Plaza Manila.

The inaugural will be filled with various activities, performances and the best deals for shoppers. The whole "ASAP Live" family is joining the celebration while Shopwise has lined up exciting promo offerings.

Great bargain buys include VCD, DVD and MP3 players; "Buy 1 Take 1" and "Buy 2 Take 1" offers on selected home and general merchandise like desk fans, pillows and pans; fashion items such as assorted costume jewelry, combs and brushes, as well as ladies' shirts and sandals; groceries and food products.

Shoppers can also avail of 20 percent discounts on bath towels, two percent on deli and dairy products, five percent on assorted Seaking frozen seafood items, plus special deals on other products. Two men's shirts and cargo shorts or women's Capri pants will cost only P199; two kilos of prepacked pork chops will be available for only P220; and a desk fan comes with a free flat iron.

Shopwise Manila is at G/F, Harrison Plaza mall. Other Shopwise branches are on M.L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road, Antipolo City; G/F, Festival Supermall, Alabang; corner Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Streets, Makati; E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis; and corner General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.



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intel inside pentium 4

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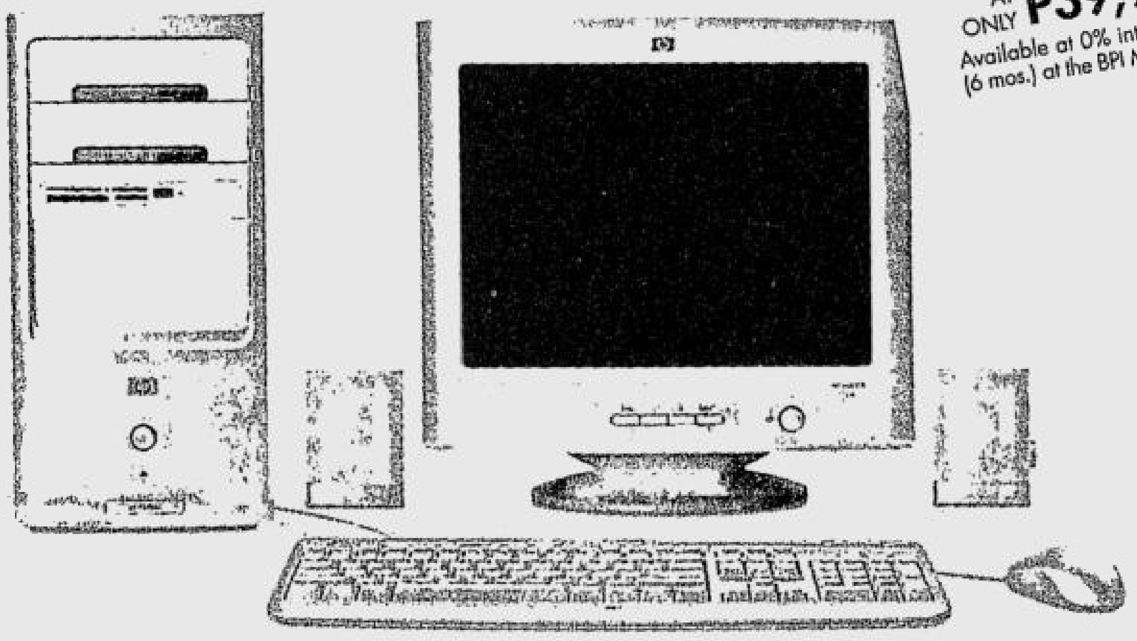

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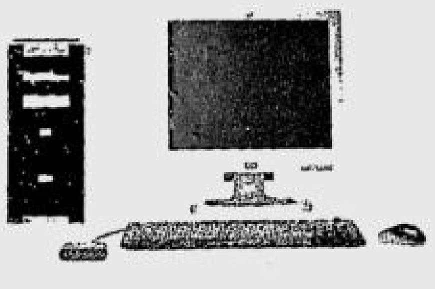

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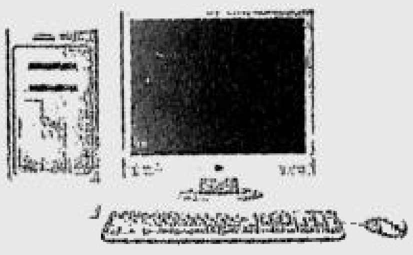

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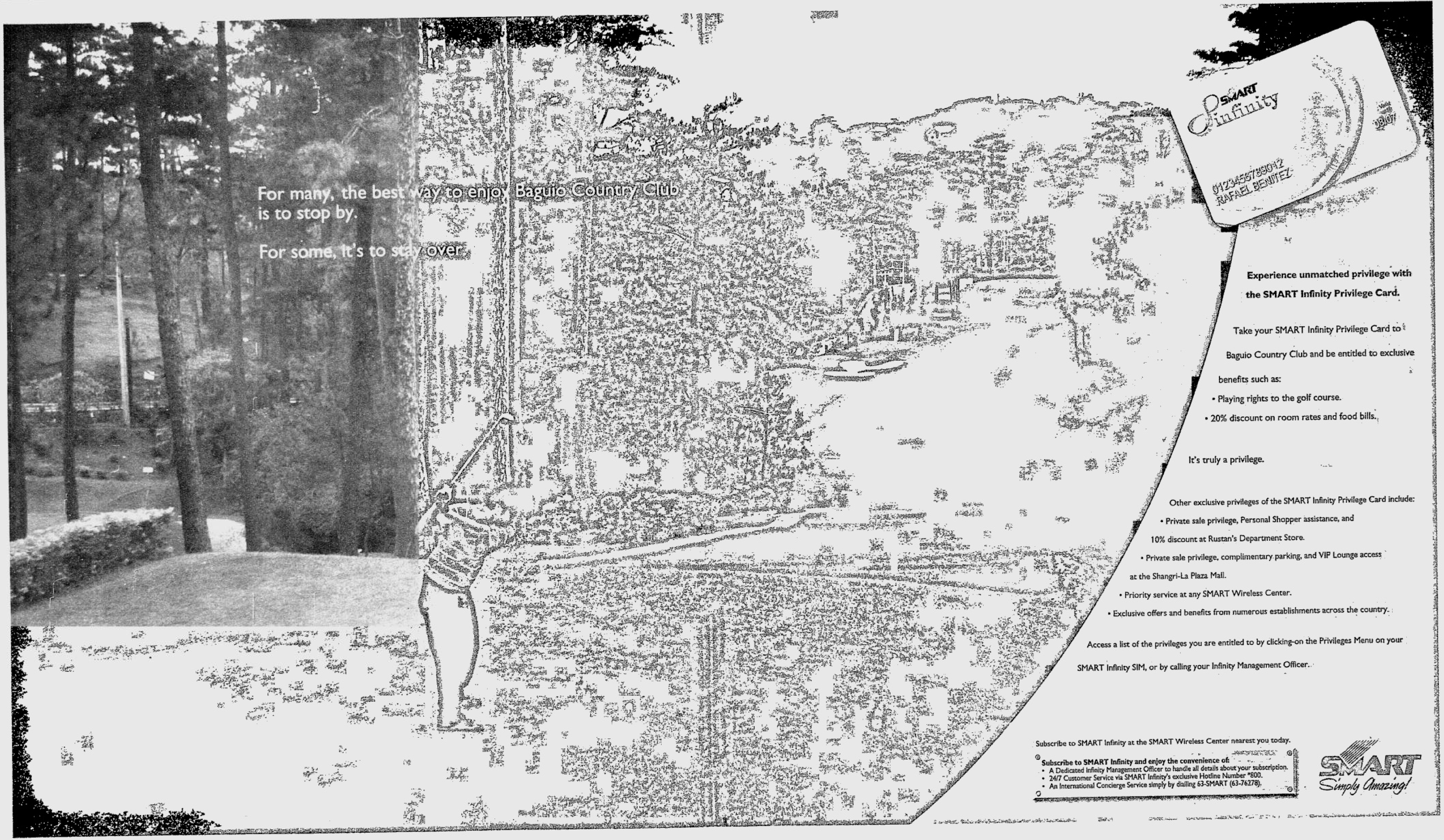
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GABY Roldan Concepcion

DANNY Concepcion

Romance with protection

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Rudy Esperas

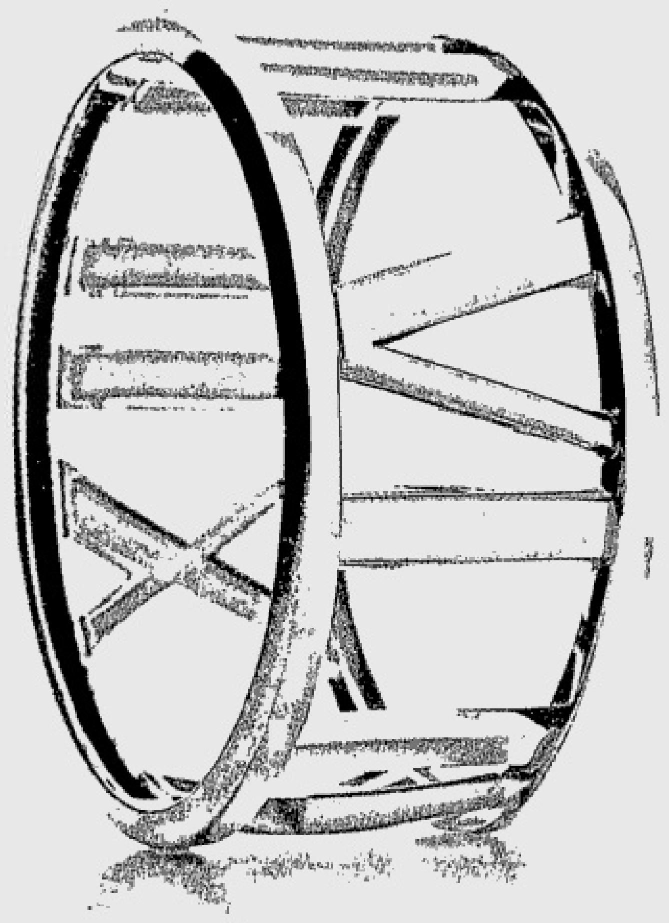
Reality bites, sure, but the pre-nuptial agreement is smart financial planning

IT'S AN ENCHANTING evening, and your dreamboat pops the question. You say "yes" and, after your vital signs return to normal, Mr. Right poses another query: "Honey, will you sign a prenuptial agreement?"

Nothing can kill romance faster than the word "prenup," say lawyers Danny Concepcion and Gaby Roldan-Concepcion, who have been married for 13 years. The couple discussed the often-misunderstood agreement in "Laws of Attraction," which was part of "Manila's Bridal Fair of the Century" recently in Century Park Hotel.

"Marriage is not just an emotional and physical union—it's also a financial union.

BUSINESS/ E2



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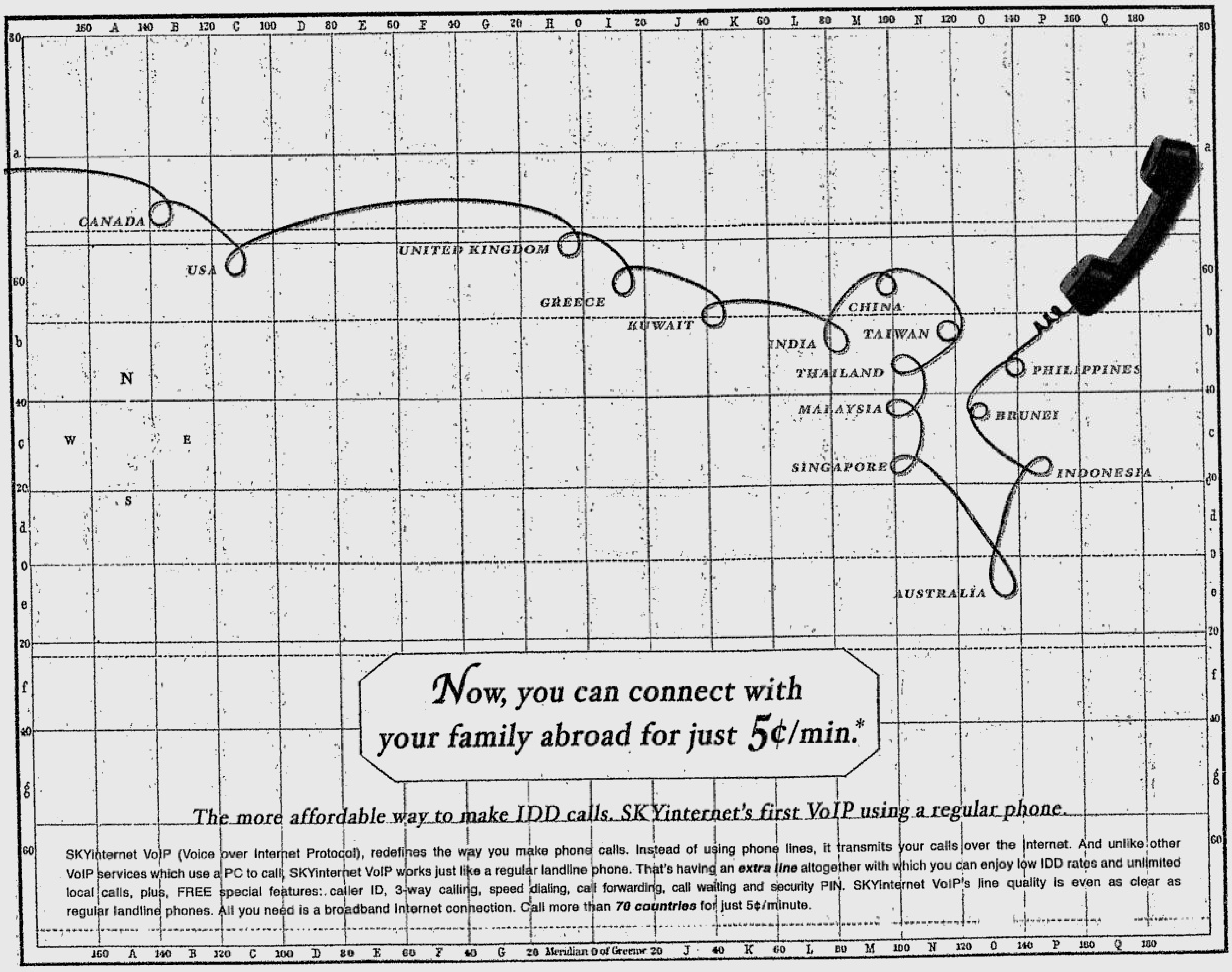

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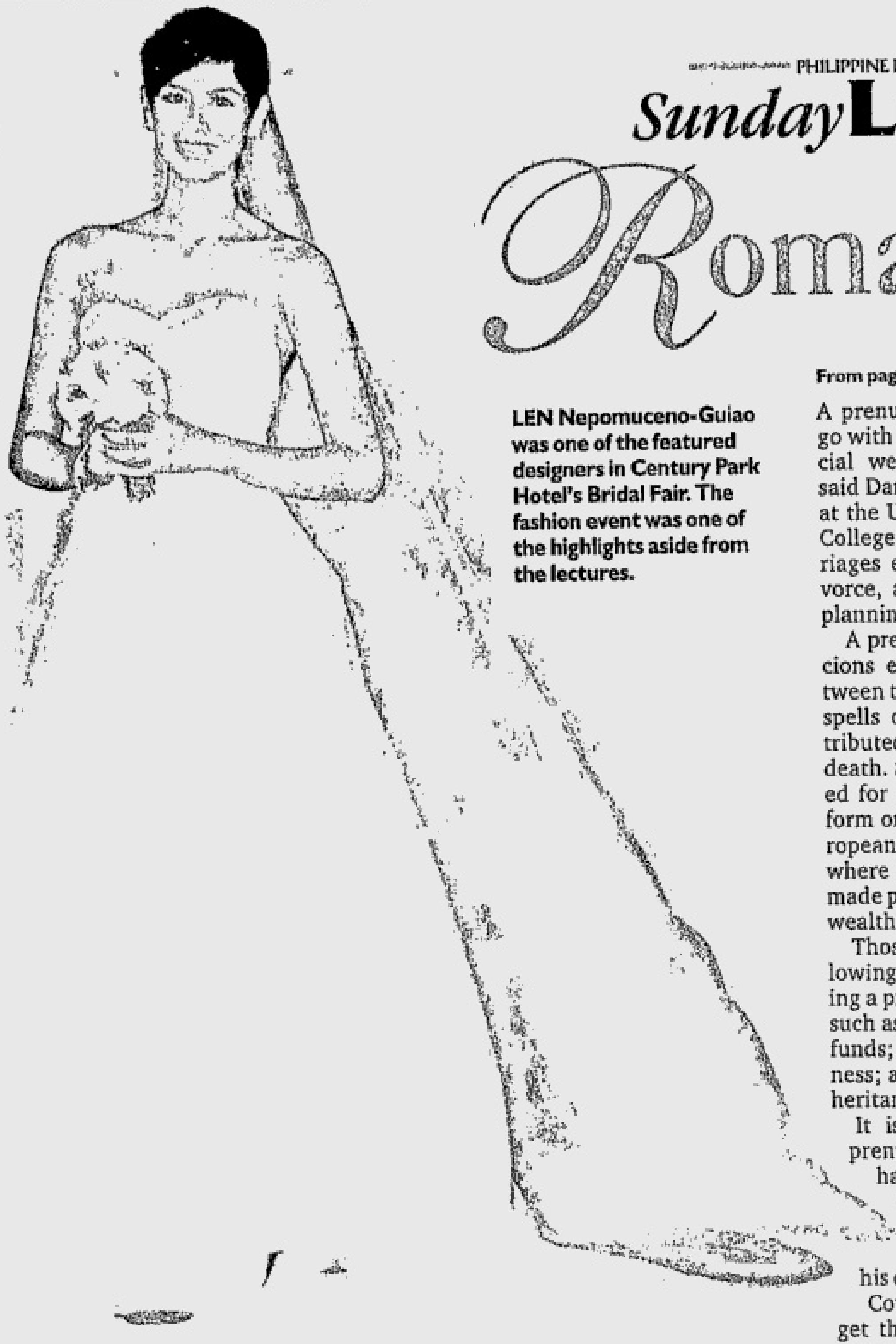


LEN Nepomuceno-Guiao was one of the featured designers in Century Park Hotel's Bridal Fair. The fashion event was one of the highlights aside from the lectures.

From page E1

A prenup and the discussions that go with it can help ensure the financial well-being of the marriage," said Danny Concepcion, a professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law. "With so many marriages ending in annulment or divorce, a prenup is smart financial planning."

A prenuptial accord, the Concepcions explained, is a contract between two people about to wed that spells out how assets will be distributed in the event of divorce or death. Such agreements have existed for thousands of years in some form or another, particularly in European and Far Eastern cultures, where royal families have always made provisions for protecting their wealth.

Those who fall into any of the following categories can consider having a prenup: those who have assets such as a home, stock or retirement funds; who own all or part of a business; and who have received an inheritance.

It is also advisable to have a prenuptial agreement when one half of the couple is much wealthier than the other; or when one of them sees a big increase in income because his or her business is taking off.

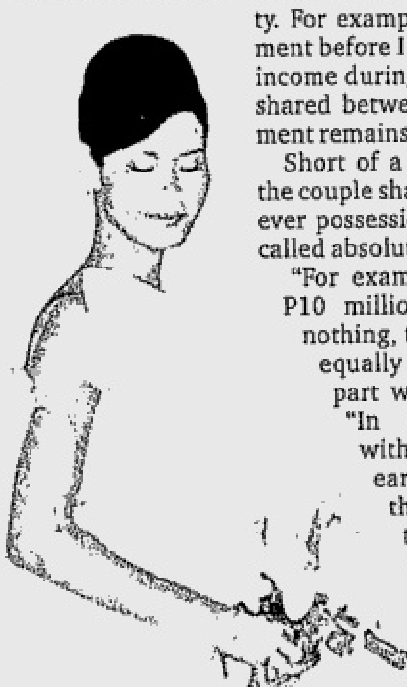
Couples below age 21 have to get the consent and signatures of their parents for a prenup.

According to Danny, it's usually the parents of the rich party who recommend the prenup in order to protect their wealth. "*Iniisip nila na baka pera lang ang habol sa anak nila.*"

He adds that before the Family Code, there was conjugal partnership. "It's okay for the couple not to sign a prenup because conjugal partnership is acceptable as the most fair arrangement," he says.

"In a conjugal partnership, what I own before I get married remains mine," he explains. "What becomes common to both parties is the income earned by one party's property. For example, if I own an apartment before I got married, its rental income during our marriage will be shared between us. But the apartment remains my property."

OLE Morabe



ITO Curata

Short of a conjugal partnership, the couple share ownership of whatever possessions they have. This is called absolute community.

"For example, if a woman has P10 million and the man has nothing, they'll have to divide it equally once they decide to part ways," Danny explains. "In conjugal partnership with a prenup, it's only the earnings of the apartment that are divided between them. This is why many who don't like absolute community resort to a prenup."

Touchy subject

So how does one broach a touchy subject like prenup? The Concepcions advise doing it as early as possible. The mention of a prenup shouldn't come as a surprise if you and your sweetheart have been open to each other as the relationship became serious.

Gaby suggests couples talk it over before the engagement. "You have to be real candid about why you want the agreement. It's not very romantic, but you have to appreciate what the other party's concerns are. Draw up your list of assets and talk about it before you hire lawyers."

If you want that prenup to have legal force, it's best to do things formally. The Concepcions say a couple has to make sure the agreement is in writing and the signing is witnessed by a lawyer.

The document should be signed many days or even weeks before the couple tie the knot to avoid the appearance of coercion, one reason some agreements are rendered null and void.

"You can't present a prenup two days before the big day and say, 'Uh, by the way, I need your signature on this.' Discuss it preferably before the invitations have been sent out," Danny says. "Then you both have time to back out if you're uncomfortable with the terms. If the discussion revealed such deep and basic differences between two people that they decide not to marry, it's obviously best if all the talks took place well in advance... You don't want to have to send back presents."

The Concepcions add that prenups can include responsibilities that don't deal with money, but frivolous conditions should be avoided, such as requiring your spouse not to gain weight, that he or she quit smoking and take out the garbage three times a week or stipulating what religion your children will observe if you and your betrothed are of different faiths.

Aside from a prenup, Gaby advises couples to make sure all the requirements for getting married have been met. They should not ignore the significance of a marriage license, for example.

"A marriage license is valid for only 120 days," she says. "If you got married on the 121st day, after the expiration of the license, your marriage was null and void from the beginning even if you've been together for 25 years and already have 10 children."

Benefits of prenup

Difficult as it may be to talk about money before marriage, doing so can save heartaches and hassles in the long run. A prenup can minimize the financial and emotional toll of a separation.

"Couples without one will have their assets distributed for them by the law if the marriage ends. And they might disagree about who should get what," Danny says.

He adds that without a prenup, assets may end up in the hands of your spouse's children from a previous marriage instead of your own kids, or they may go to a slothful mate who has done nothing while you've toiled away at a business to achieve success.

If you don't want the courts to make the final decision about how your assets will be divided, a prenup can protect you. "Without a prenup you're letting your financial future be determined by a third party," he says.

Other bridal fair activities

Aside from "Laws of Attraction" by the Concepcions, Century Park Hotel also featured other wedding talks. Cory Quirino discussed how to prepare for the big day with pampering and fitness tips in "Radiant Bride, Radiant Beauty." Fr. Richard Bulaton shared the secrets of keeping a marriage after the grandiose wedding day is over in "Yah Mo Be There."

Dr. Bong Buencamino of Dermclinic spoke on plastic surgery in "To Nip Tuck or Not to Nip Tuck." Dance lessons to prepare couples for their first dance during their wedding reception were presented by Boyet Sison, a member of the Penthouse Seven Dancers, in "Our First Steps."

The Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines presented a bridal fashion show during the two-day exhibit.

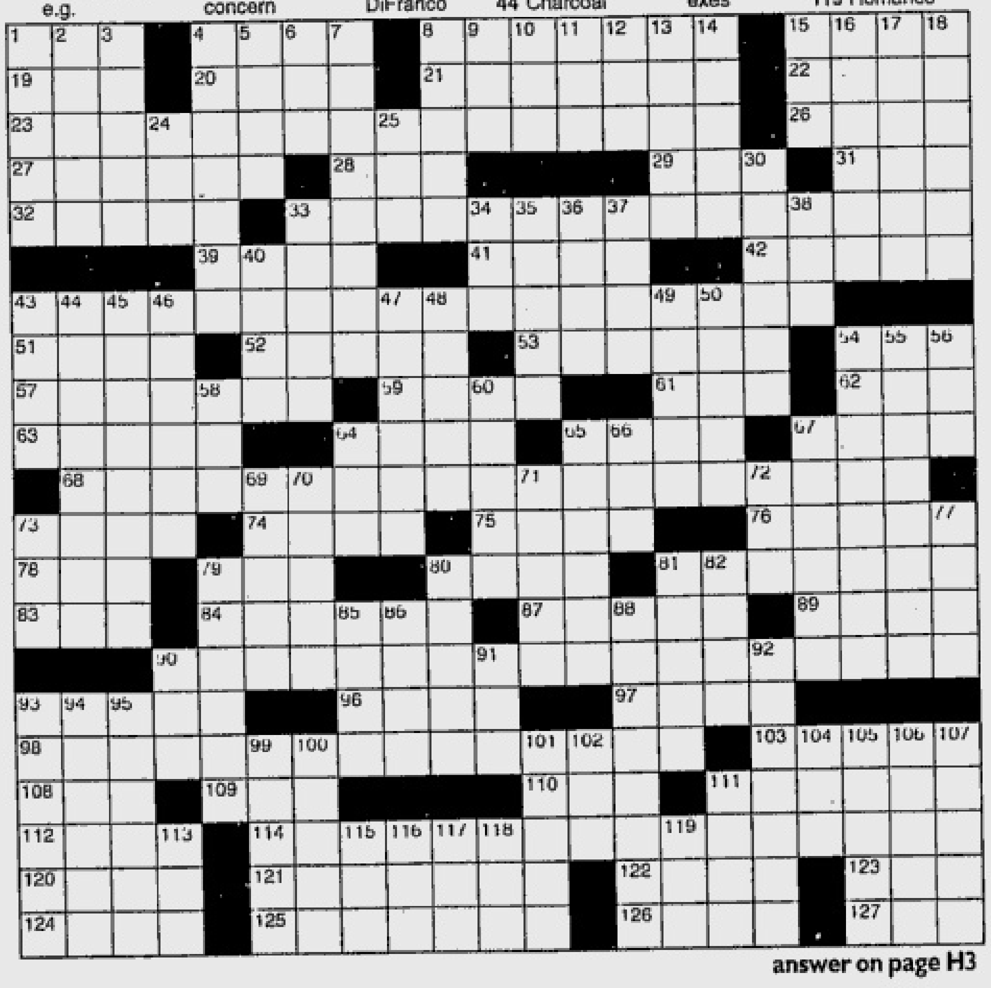
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo ACQUAINTANCE

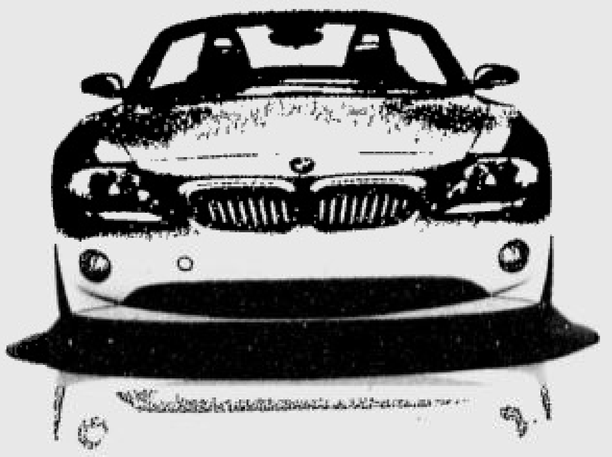
ACROSS
1 Play on words
4 Online periodical, for short
8 Logical proposition
15 Syria's neighbor
19 Brunched
20 Brand of contact lens cleaner
21 Unlike chicken scratch
22 Bill of fare
23 Start of a riddle
26 Bit of pond scum
27 Properties
28 — Jose
29 Conk out
31 Politico Landon
32 China's Zhou —
33 Riddle, part 2
39 "So long!"
41 Easter lead-in
42 Fills with freight
43 Riddle, part 3
51 Adorable
52 Confused
53 Put back in the catalog, e.g.
54 IRS worker
57 Solitary sorts
59 Pipsqueak
61 Some MTV hosts
62 Crew accessory
63 High-fives, e.g.
64 Crazy
65 Fire fanatic
67 Have to
68 Riddle, part 4
73 Oodles
74 Gimlet garnish
75 Bellicose god
76 Eulogize
78 Distress
79 Charged particle
80 Greenish blue
81 "Don Juan" playwright
83 Like 7 or 11
84 "Gimme a break!"
87 Shroud of —
89 "Misery" star James
90 Riddle, part 5
93 Inched along
96 Actress Reid
97 Christian of fashion
98 End of the riddle
103 Grammar teacher's concern
108 Saloon
109 "Groovy!", updated
110 "Days of — Lives"
111 One who loves
112 March 15th, e.g.
114 Riddle's answer
120 Similar to
121 Transition area between plant communities
122 "Neato!"
123 Alley of Moo
124 With 36-Down, 1972 Bill Withers hit
125 Big blast unit
126 Britain's Blair
127 Jazz critic Hentoff

DOWN
1 Collage adhesive
2 Motorist's reversal
3 Sherpa's home
4 Risque reading
5 Muddle
6 Singer/songwriter DiFranco
7 Expos for NRAers
8 Factory
9 TKO caller
10 Psyche component
11 Old Russian space station
12 ThinkPad maker
13 Toboggans
14 Spine-chilling
15 The Beatles' "— Loser"
16 Put down again, as concrete
17 "Hulk" director
18 Hearty drinks
24 Zadora or Lindstrom
25 Moo goo — pan
30 Dazzling successes
33 Floats gently
34 Leprechaun
35 Core
36 See 124-Across
37 Gas or elec., e.g.
38 Laugh syllable
40 — all possible
43 Folk singer Phil
44 Charcoal
45 Put through a sieve
46 Lures
47 Oxygen-dependent organism
48 Insolent
49 Book, in Brest
50 "Quality — one" (Ford slogan)
54 Undersea explorer Jacques
55 Rustic
56 — Deco
58 Sort of: Suffix
60 "Forget it!"
64 On the — (fleeing)
65 Full legislative assembly
66 NFL gains
67 Mariachi's home
69 Hilo hello
70 Stanford's IQ-test partner
71 Very mad
72 Moray, say
73 Tangoing number
77 Advance
79 Famed film flop
80 One of Xavier Cugat's exes
81 Liquid measure of about one drop
82 Savvy about
85 "Como —?"
86 Wild guess
88 Change the focus of
90 Typist's stat
91 Plato's T
92 In a crass way
93 Actress Shepherd
94 Band aid?
95 "I found it!"
99 Deejay Casey
100 Bring forth
101 Memento
102 Attila was one
104 Plant seeds
105 Inert gas
106 Columbus's birthplace
107 Go off violently
111 Ever's partner
113 D.C. bigwig
115 Yuletide drink
116 Thespian Hagen
117 "Like it or —"
118 Half of "dos"
119 Romance



answer on page H3

A holiday getaway for two.



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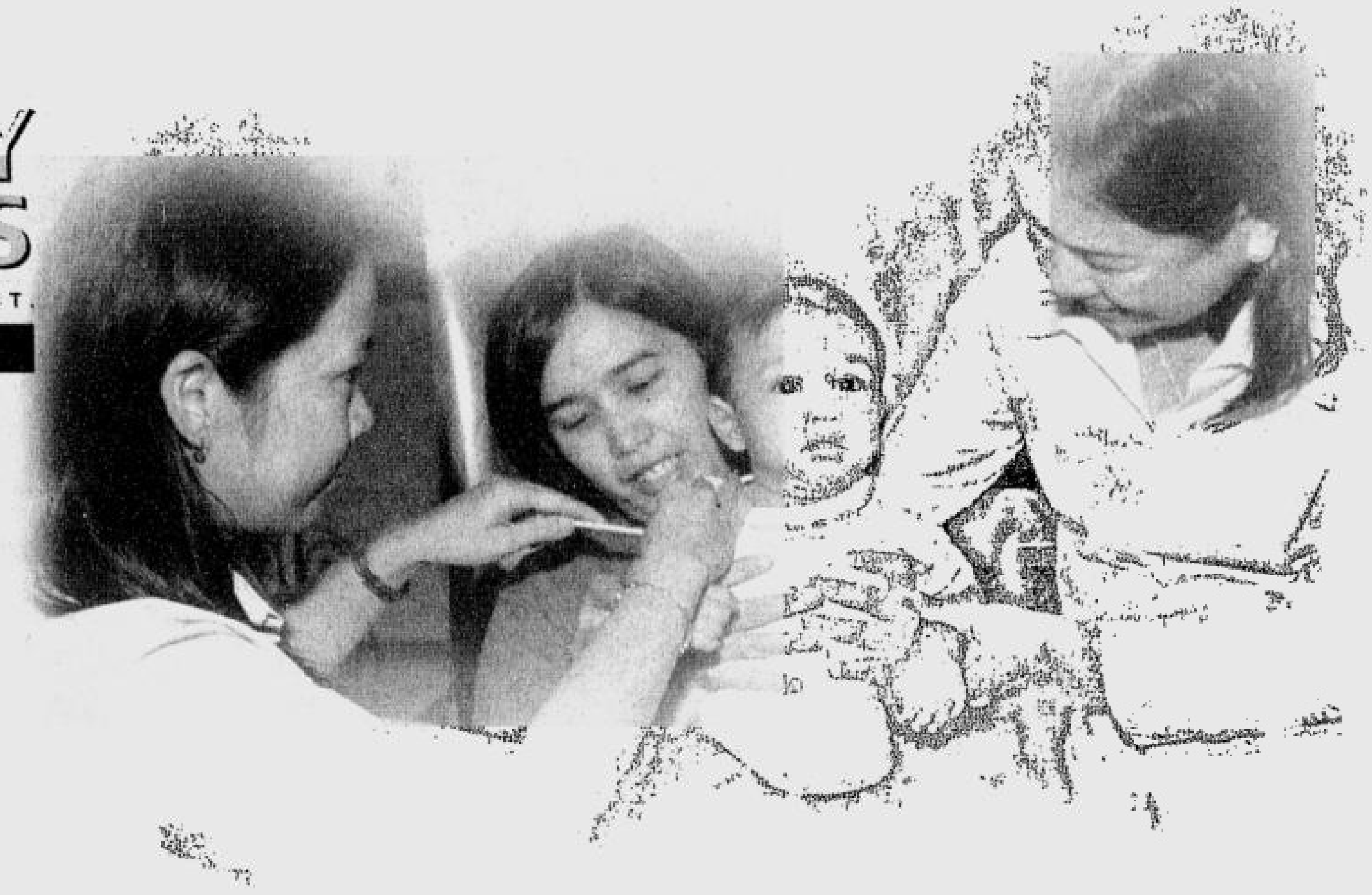


GlaxoSmithKline Launches Family Vaccines

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), a leading research-based pharmaceutical company, launched the GSK Family Vaccines, an innovative program that aims to educate families about the need for complete family protection from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Under the GSK Family Vaccines Program, quality vaccines for illnesses such as hepatitis-A, hepatitis-B, influenza, measles, mumps and rubella, chicken pox, typhoid fever, meningococcal meningitis, to name a few, are made available to members of the family depending on their age and lifestyle. The program intends to spread information on immunization and vaccine-preventable diseases.

During the recent launch held at The Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel, GSK partnered with Mommy Academy, a non-government organization that advocates active parenting and provides reliable information about childcare. Exciting activities for each family member were available. There was a "Family Immunity Corner" where doctors extended free consultations and immunity assessment, and an "Info Corner" that provided primers on various diseases. The children also had a blast at the "Kid's Play Station Area" where they enjoyed fun activities such as storytelling, puppet and magic shows. There was also an arts and crafts corner and a mini play station area for toddlers.

Families enjoyed having their souvenir photos taken at the "Family Adventure Corner," and moms and dads took a breather by availing of relaxing spa services at the "Family Spa Corner."

Celebrity moms Ces Oreña-Drilon and Suzi Entrata-Abrera hosted the event, while popular comedian and celebrity mom Ruby Rodriguez shared some valuable insights on how to keep the family healthy.

During the launch, two top medical doctors shared their expertise about the value of immunization. Dr. Sally Gatchalian talked about the over-all importance of vaccination in protecting the family from various harmful diseases. On the other hand, Dr. Anna Ong-Lim, stressed the value of immunization as an effective and safe way to protect the family against food and water-borne diseases.

Aside from the fun activities, the families went home with loot-bags filled with goodies from sponsors like Aqua Fresh, Astring-o-Sol, Calpol, Frisogrow, Value Health, Huggies, Big and Small Company, Havin' A Baby, Spin, Maxibear, Maxiworks, Maxitoylab and Mommy Matters.

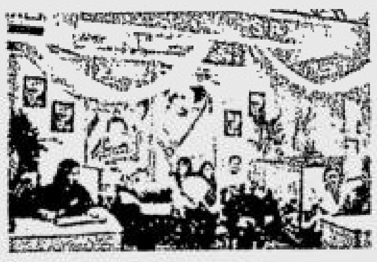
Ask your doctor for more information on vaccine-preventable diseases and take the first step in safeguarding your family's health. Discover your power to protect your loved ones inside and outside the home.

Family Info. Corner

Family Immunity Corner

Suzi Abrera & Ces Drilon

Family Adventure Corner



Family Spa Corner

Kids Playstation Area

Mime Act

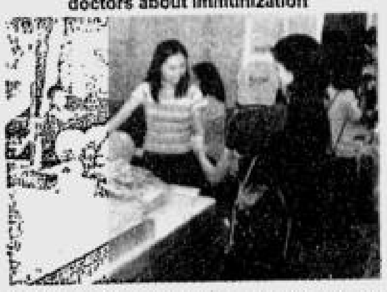
Dr. Anna Ong-Lim

Dr. Sally Gatchalian

The participants enjoying loads of surprises during the launch

Dr. Sally Gatchalian, Ruby Rodriguez & Ces Drilon

Parents at the Family Immunity Corner asking doctors about immunization



Frisogrow
3

Other GSK partner brands providing giveaways and nutrition assessment

Visit your doctor today and inquire about the vaccines best suited for you and your family.

Parañaque parish changes Virgin's feast day

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

MIAN Gancayco, Minda Garcia, Rosie Castro, Justice Oswald Agcaoili, Justice Willy Agnir, Ogie Alviar, Lita Roque; (standing) Ernie Albano, Betty Merritt, Nora Bautista, Baby Doble, Baby Lejano and Ampy Araullo

A MAJOR CHANGE OCCURRED IN ST. Andrew Cathedral in La Huerta, Parañaque. Msgr. Manny Gabriel, rector, deemed it proper to celebrate the feast day of Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso (Our Lady of Good Events) on Aug. 10, instead of Nov. 29, so that the celebration is concentrated on the Virgin.

The feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle falls on Nov. 30. The procession brings out both the Virgin and the saint.

The image of the Virgin was enthroned in the church Aug. 10, 1625, by Fray Juan Guevara from his cell in the convent where she stayed for a few days.

The story of the Virgin began with Katig, a poor *indio*, who asked the sacristan for the dusty image in a corner of the sacristy. Katig brought the image to his small house, lighting candles to honor her. When Katig lay dying, he asked Fr. Guevara to take the Virgin and offer Masses when he died.

At night, singing was heard from the priest's cell and a strange light emanated from the image. Fr. Guevara realized the Virgin was miraculous.

With the bishop's permission, he brought the image to the church.

The celebration this year began with a nine-day novena of Masses. Different priests said Mass and gave homilies. The fiesta Mass was concelebrated by Msgr. Gabriel and other priests at 6 p.m. The *gozos* to the Virgin were sung by the Cathedral Choir using the music of the late National Artist Lucio San Pedro.

The Cofradia de Nuestra del Buen Suceso launched its website (www.cofradiadelbuensuceso.org) during the fiesta. It also led the procession after the Mass.

Candaba fiesta

Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Bahay Pare, Candaba, Pampanga, is preparing for its fiesta on Sept. 24. Dr. Alvin Balatbat is *hermano mayor*.

Masses will be held every hour 5-10 a.m. then 4:30-7 p.m. Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto will officiate at the concelebrated Mass at 10 a.m.

Text 0916-4453842 or call (045)8827313.

Devotees are now praying for the canonical coronation of Our Lady of Mercy. The fiesta is part of the annual Mercedarian Festival that commemorates the 787th anniversary of the apparition of the Virgin Mary in 1218 to St. Peter Nolasco and St. Raymond of Penafort, giving them scapulars.

Fundraising

Prominent families of Ilocos Norte will have a fundraising dinner dance at 6:30 p.m., Sept. 24, at William Shaw Pavilion of Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. The event also marks the Kannawidan Foundation's 12th anniversary.

Leading the fundraising are officers and board members: Justice Oswaldo D. Agcaoili (ret.), president; Georgia Balmaceda Alviar, vice president; Minda Acacio Garcia, treasurer; Betty Factora Merritt, secretary; Lita Marcos Roque, auditor; and Amparo Javier Araullo, lawyer Ernesto Albano, Nora Castro Bautista, Marylou Carpio Claudio, Baby Villaluz Doble, Mian Rosales Gancayco, Dr. Fidelis Foronda Labrador, Baby Valdez Lejano, Col. Willie Nicolas and Linabelle Ramos Villarica, trustees.

Founding chair Francis Ablan, and past presidents Justice Willie Agnir (ret.), Rosemarie Balmaceda Lazaro, Rosie Mata Castro, Max Edralin and Alice Raval Ventura comprise the council of advisers.

Funds will subsidize entrance fees for the Museo Ilocos Norte of public elementary school children in the province. Guest of honor Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte traces his roots to Vintar town. Call 9251462 or 0919-5825556, or 7222272.

Pilgrimage

Arpex Travel is organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Nov. 9-18. Text 0916-3189813 or 0917-8250817, or call 5253883.

World congress

Sixteen Filipino members of the Oblates of the Benedictine Congregations of the Philippines led by national spiritual director Dom Martin de Jesus Gomez, OSB, and national lay coordinator Alex (Bro. Vincent) Pesigan will leave Sept. 17 for Rome to participate in the First World Congress of Benedictine Oblates Sept. 19-25.

Delegates are lay people associated with monastic communities in the country, promising to apply the teachings of Saint Benedict, especially "Ora et Labora" (Prayer and Work), in their lives.

Enthronement

The newly restored image of the Lady of Apocalypse was re-enthroned Sept. 8, birthday of Mama Mary, at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig City with Bishop Francisco San Diego and Fr. Roy Rosales officiating.

The restoration of Our Lady of the Apocalypse was started in 2004 by a group from the Cultural Heritage Studies of the University of Santo Tomas. Professor Maita Reyes, consultant to the Lopez Museum, supervised the restoration.

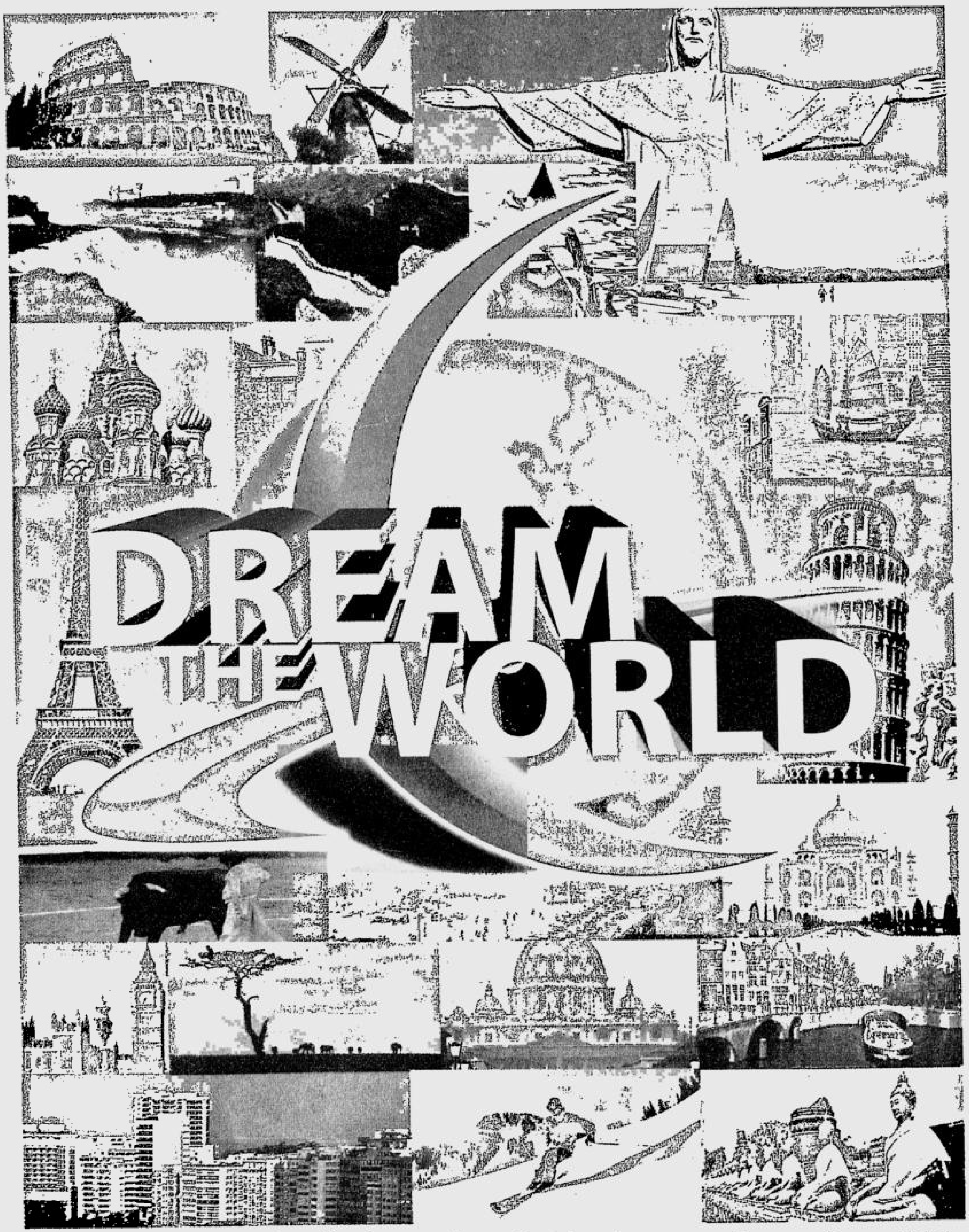
Statue

On Aug. 30, a statue of Saint Josemaria Escriva de Balaquer, founder of Opus Dei, was placed outside the St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The five-meter marble statue is in a niche on the left transept of the basilica, also known as St. Joseph's Arm, very close to the entrance to the sacristy.

The statue is grouped with others of the same size, like those of St. Gregory the Illuminator, founder of the Armenian Church (by the Armenian sculptor Khatchik Kazandjian); St. Teresa of the Andes, Carmelite nun (by the Chilean sculptor Juan Eduardo Fernandez Cox); and St. Marcellin Champagnat, founder of the Marist Brothers (by the Costa Rican sculptor Jorge Jimenez Deredia).

St. Josemaria's statue was carved from a single block of marble by the Italian sculptor Romano Cosci, who spent more than a year on the work.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Every subscription, reload, upgrade or reactivation of Dream Plan 750 entitles you to one (1) raffle entry. The winners for each period will be randomly drawn at 4 pm at the 11th Floor, DPC Place 2322 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City on the following dates:
   - 1st Draw – September 5, 2005 for those who subscribe, reload, upgrade or reactivate their account starting May 1 until August 31.
   - 2nd Draw – January 9, 2006 for those who subscribe, reload, upgrade or reactivate their account starting September 1 until December 31.

   All draws will be supervised by authorized representatives from Philippine Multi Media System, Inc (PMSI) and Avellana & Associates, Inc., to be witnessed by a Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) representative
2. A participant can win only once per draw. If a person's name is drawn more than once, he/she will get the prize with the higher value.
3. Winners for each draw will be announced on DREAM FM 106.7 radio station, and published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on September 7, 2005 (1st draw) and January 11, 2006 (2nd draw).
4. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For GMA winners, prizes may be picked up at the 11th Floor, DPC Place 2322 Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Makati City and for PROVINCIAL winners, prizes may be picked up at the nearest PMSI office.
5. Winners will shoulder all expenses (travel documents, taxes, hotel accommodation) related to availing their prizes.
6. Winners must present the registered mail and a valid ID (Driver's License, Passport, Employment ID, School ID, SSS and GSIS) when claiming their prize.
7. Prizes can be redeemed within 60 days from receipt of notification. International trip prize is valid within 6 months from date of issue. Local trip prize is valid within one (1) year from date of issue.
8. Raffle prizes are transferable, but are not convertible to cash
9. All prizes are tax-free.
10. Employees of PMSI and Avellana & Associates, Inc. and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining the raffle promotion.
11. All decisions pertaining to the raffle promotion with prior approval by DTI will be deemed final and irrevocable.

Promo period is from May 1 to December 31, 2005.

Per DTI NCR Permit Number 1441, Series of 2005

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Sunday LifeStyle

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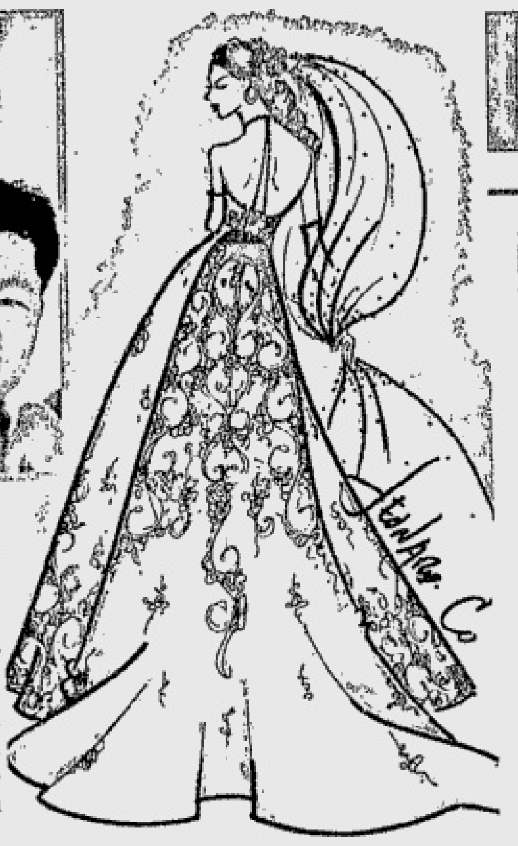
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



FILIPINO-NGO

Karen Ngo, daughter of **Juan** and **Francisca Ngo**, will exchange vows with **Jeffrey Filipino**, son of **Tony** and **Bea Filipino**, today at San Sebastian Church. The bride will wear an all-white frosted georgette chiffon gown by **Leonard Co.**

HERRADURA-LADERO

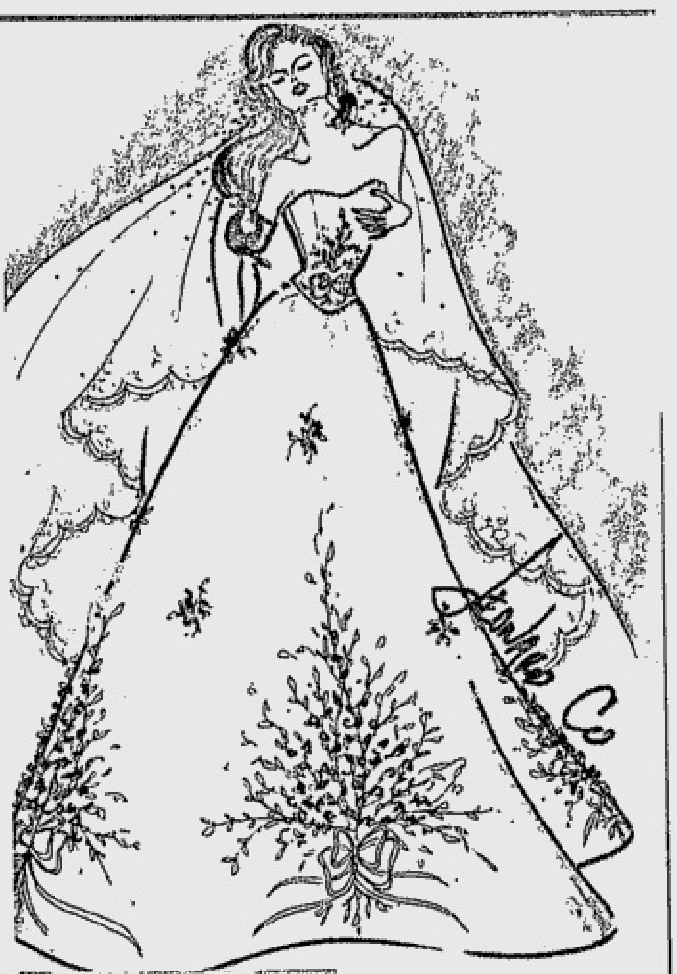
Elmer Herradura, son of **Glicerio** and **Elizabeth Herradura** of Davao City, wed recently **Renalita Ladero**, daughter of **Renato** and **Julita Ladero** of Bacoor, Cavite, at the National Shrine of Sacred Heart in San Antonio Village, Makati City. Reception was held at The Loft on Rockwell Drive, Makati. The bride's gown was designed by **Mila de Leon.**

DE LA CRUZ 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Leonardo and **Marieta de la Cruz** recently celebrated their golden anniversary by renewing their wedding vows. They were joined by children **Oscar** and **Leah Mae**, grandchild **Weiland**; siblings and in-laws **Gloria**, **Ben** and **Belen**, **Romy** and **Elvie**, **Jorge** and **Mary**, **Baby**, and **Luz**; and nephews and nieces in a garden ceremony in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. **Olivia** and **Allen Ammen** coordinated the event. Photo and video coverage was done by Printshoppe.

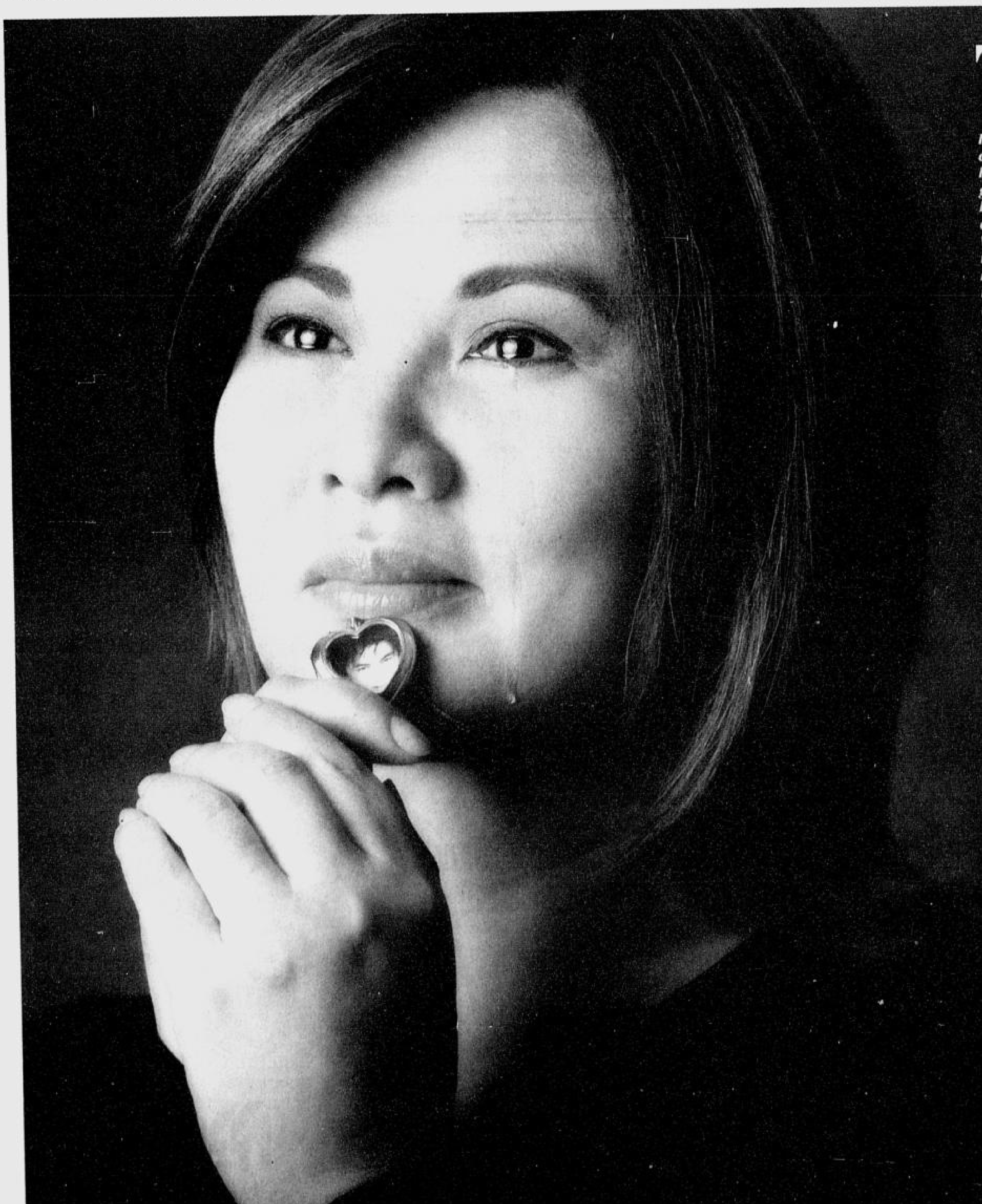
LIM-LAPUZ

Dr. **Alvin Lim**, son of **Vicente** and **Virgina Lim**, will wed Dr. **Edna Lapuz**, daughter of **Leonardo** and **Rebecca Lapuz**, on Oct. 12, at the Mary the Queen Church in Greenhills, San Juan. Reception will follow at the Garden Ballroom of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. The gowns of the bride and the entourage were designed by **Jaja.**



JOSON-SIY

Lorraine Siy, daughter of **Philip** and **Rose Siy** exchanged vows recently with **Richard Thomas Joson**, son of Gov. **Thomas Joson III** and **Mary Ann Joson**, at Santuario de San Jose. The bride wore a metallic ecru organdy tube bouffant gown with embroidery by **Leonard Co.**



Tears?

I lost my son when he was just 21. Miko's death wrenched my soul and my whole being screamed to understand. In grappling with the onslaught of grief, I became God's instrument of hope as the decision to donate his corneas was made. With that gift, two children were given the chance to see the world clearly like my Miko did, and many Filipinos for the first time opened their eyes to the idea of corneal donation. I so miss Miko. But I can smile because there is hope in my heart.

Continuing to share of herself, Ali has pledged to donate her eyes and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Ali, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information,
please call (632) 893.5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Ali Sotto
News Anchor

Photography Jun de Leon

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EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
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THE COUPLE with the principal sponsors

NEWLY weds Capt. Alekhine Tinio and Lt. Lowen Audal

TINIO-AUDAL NUPTIALS

Patient gets life-long medical care

By Joselle dR Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

FOR CAPT. ALEKHINE "Alek" Tinio and 1Lt. Lowen Audal, the song "Love Moves in Mysterious Ways" may be an appropriate theme song.

For the two military officers, love blossomed in an unusual way.

Tinio, a former municipal doctor of Lobo, Batangas, before being called to active duty in the Armed Forces, is detailed at the Southern Command Naval Station in Camp Panacan, Davao City.

On a medical-civic action program in a remote area of Talaingod in Davao del Norte last year, he met Audal. But the meeting was not memorable.

"She was a snob," Tinio told the INQUIRER. "I wasn't even hopeful I'll be able to see or meet her again."

A month later, Tinio saw Audal again during a routine health checkup for officers.

"She was jogging for the physical fitness test for their promotion and we were checking the candidates' blood pressures," he said.

Again, like the first time, Tinio said they had nothing more than the usual doctor-patient conversation. Later, he saw her at the camp's canteen, but thinking her a snob held him back.

"I was just watching her," he said. But he was also saying to himself, "I know you will get sick and we will meet again."

Exactly a month later, Audal, who was then with Task Force Davao, was rushed to the station hospital because of a fever.

"The date was May 9. I will never forget (it) because I was then doing my laundry while watching Manny Pacquiao's match," Tinio said, laughing.

Her illness provided Tinio the opportunity to let her know how he felt for her.

"They always say, attack when your enemy is weak... she wasn't the enemy but a patient who was weak," he said.

Audal recalled her stay in the hospital, "When I got sick, he was always there for me. He took care of me. *Kaya naman nahulog 'yong loob ko sa kanya*. I felt the sacrifice he made and his sincerity," Audal told the INQUIRER.

On May 14, Tinio and Audal tied the knot at the St. Michael's Chapel in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Principal sponsors included Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte; Brig. Gen. Rafael Regino; Col. Gaudencio Pangilinan, formerly of Task Force Davao; Lt. Col. Roseller Murillo; Lt. Col. Joselito Lonzame; Lt. Col. Nelson Dancel; Lt. Col. Jaime Gaffud; lawyer Gaudioso Manalo; Maj. Magno Adalin; Maj. Orlando Suarez; Maj. Alexis Noel Bravo; MSgt. José Villanueva; Maria Fe Alino; Ma. Chona Caingles; Lt. Col. Sonia Tumulos; Dionela Juaneza; Delia Sarmiento; Maj. Evelyn Dasalla; Maj. Annie Abella; Cecilia Regino; Nora Lonzame; Dina Gaffud; and Nellie Clemente.

Best man was Dr. Bryan Cabigting, while Vanessa Clemente was maid of honor.

Bridesmaids and flower girls wore gowns in burgundy.

After the wedding, lunch was served at Café Villa of the Army Officer's Club in Fort Bonifacio.

E-mail the author at jbadilla@inquirer.com.ph.

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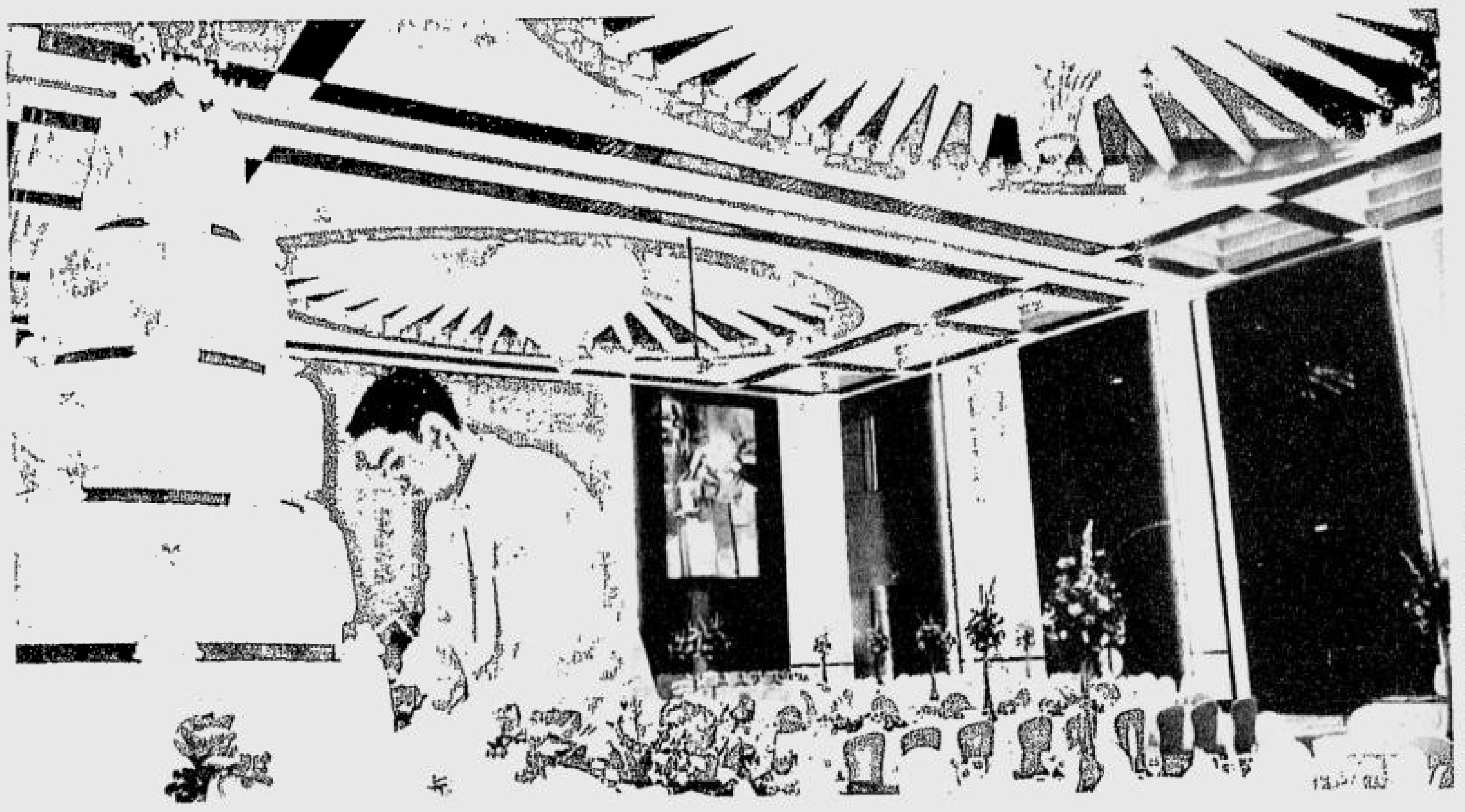
Call JP Montilla or Jhay Delarmente at 5343721 local 12123 or 12393/0917-5391972, or e-mail jpcwi@info.com.ph



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Watch Pond's Perfect Moments 2 every Sunday, 11AM at ABS-CBN Channel 2. Write your contact details and signature on a piece of paper together with your answer to the question "What does Pond's White Beauty give you?"

ENCLOSE IN AN ENVELOPE WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

- 3 sachets of New Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Cream 10mL
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SEND AS MANY ENTRIES TO
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Deadline for submission of entries is on September 23, 2005.

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DOH-BFAD permit no. 0871 series of 2005

Beauty for Life from Pond's White Beauty

Every woman aims to have a beautiful face - to be able to confidently face the world and to turn special events to perfect moments. Pond's, the number one face care brand in the Philippines, understands this.

POND'S
WHITE BEAUTY

Given this understanding, Pond's White Beauty creates a broader concept of beauty in a woman's life. Pond's does not limit the idea of beauty to looks alone. Pond's sees the broader perspective that beauty is about life. For Pond's, beauty is for living and not just for show. A woman's beauty opens up a world of personal and professional opportunities which will become an important part in her personal journey towards success and happiness.

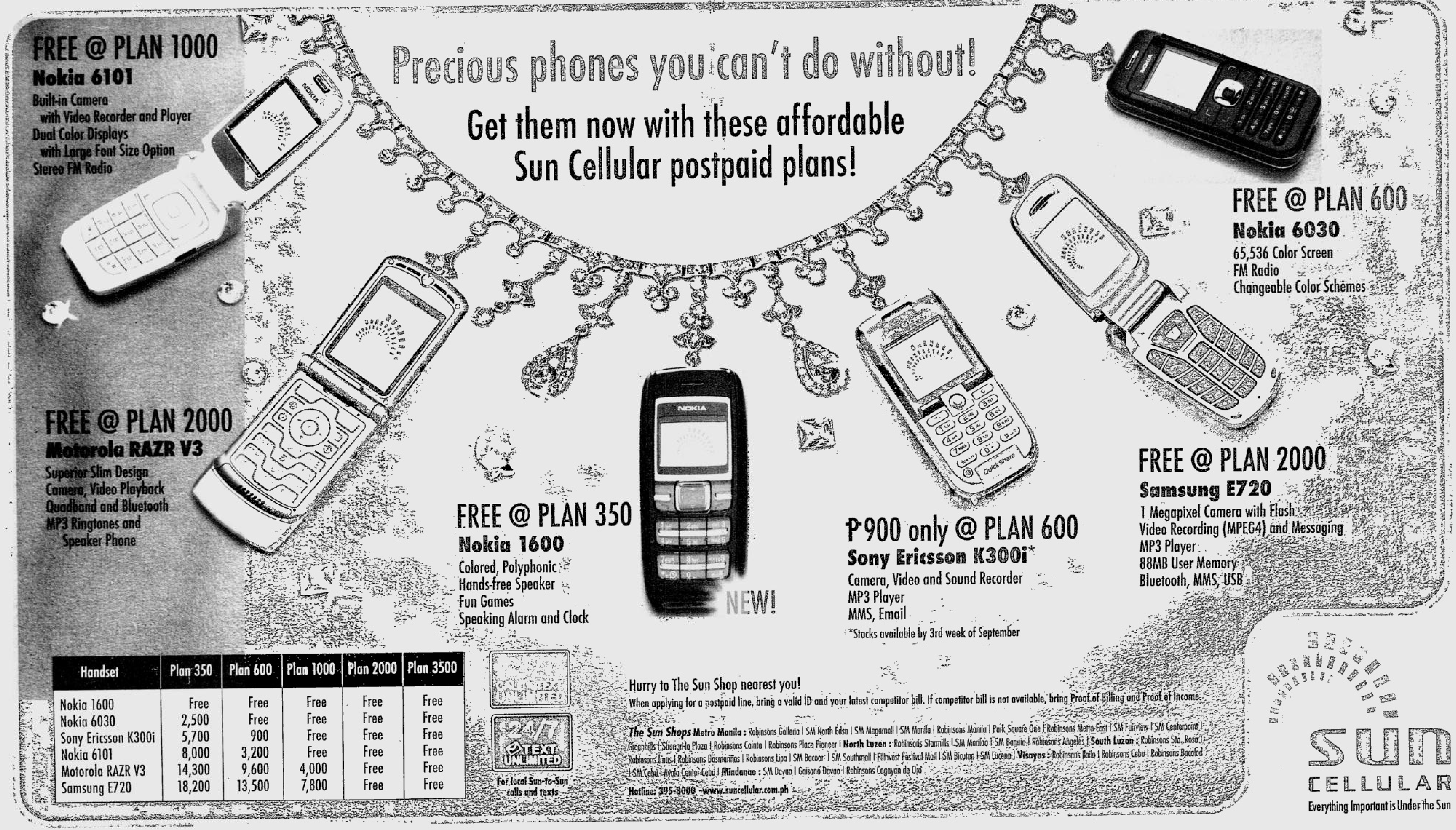
When a woman embraces beauty, Pond's becomes her trusted partner in every step of the way. Pond's Institute has the know-how to make the difference women hope for. Pond's is the beauty brand that understands, transforms and inspires women to be as beautiful as they can be to make the most out of life.

To educate and inspire women with the knowledge that beauty is for living and not just for show, Pond's White Beauty tapped an epitome of this ideal. Claudine Barretto is the newest Pond's White Beauty Woman, the face behind the Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Leave-on Range. Life for Claudine has certainly made a turn for the better these past few years. As her testimonial on the new Pond's TV Commercial says, her life was transformed because her skin was transformed by Pond's. Her flawless rosy white skin has opened up a lot of opportunities for her. She's undeniably one of today's most sought-after endorsers. She's a full-pledged actress, recently starring in a series of block-buster hits and has recently won her first acting award for the film, Milan. Add to all these, Claudine has found true bliss in the man of her dreams she is about to marry.

Pond's White Beauty offers another innovative way in bringing it's Beauty for Life Philosophy to the lives of countless Filipinas. The second season of Pond's Perfect Moments on ABS-CBN tackles women's life goals and the way to achieve them. For Pond's, the first step is to have that flawless rosy white skin that will help open up professional and personal opportunities to achieve one's goals. Aside from tips on how to achieve that flawless rosy white skin, the show also features experts and celebrity figures who share own life experiences in achieving the particular life goal for that episode.

Indeed, Pond's has gone beyond physical transformation to face life's perfect moments and has taken things a step higher with the second season of Perfect Moments. Through the show, Pond's will give lucky women the to transform her skin and, thus, transform her life through the Pond's Perfect Moments Home Partner Promo. Every episode five home partners will get P 10,000 each and at the end of the season, one lucky woman will win P1,000,000 to help her start a perfect beautiful life.

Through the years, Pond's has perfected the concept of beauty in a woman's life. As Pond's White Beauty introduces its Beauty for Life Philosophy, expect that the face care expert we've grown to love and trust will be with us every step of the way, as we all reach for our own life goals beginning with that flawless rosy white skin. ADVT.



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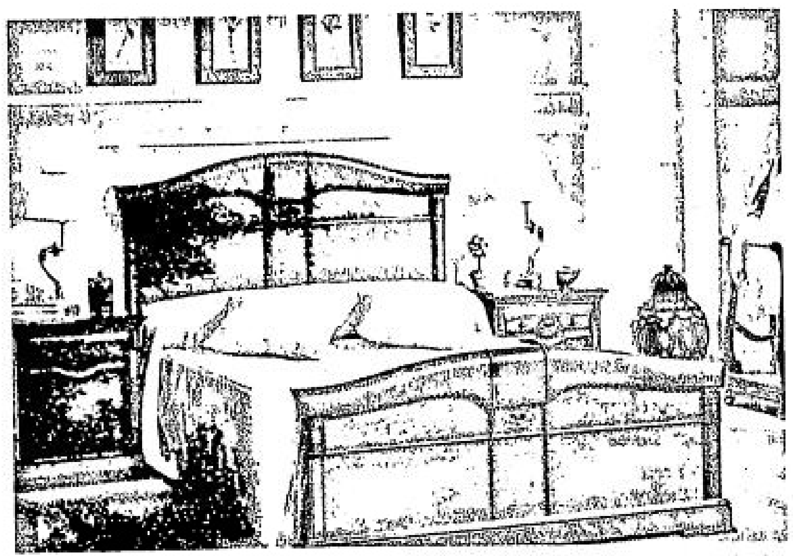
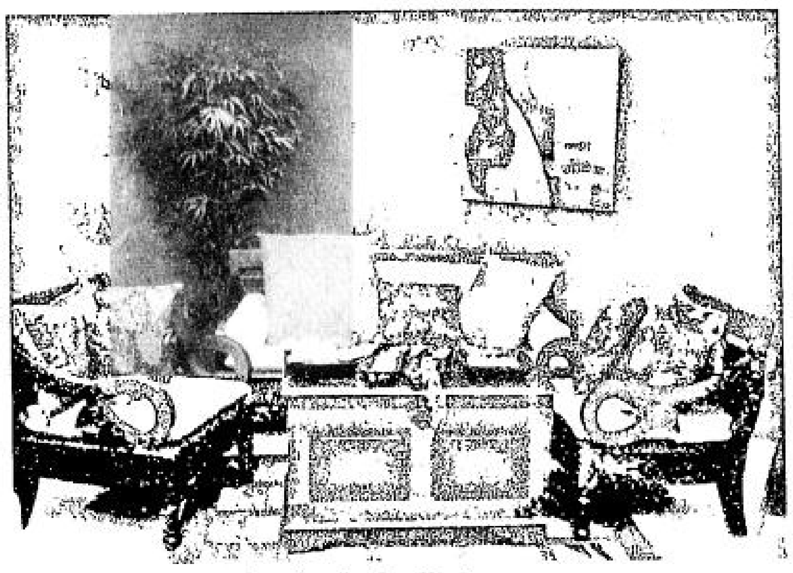
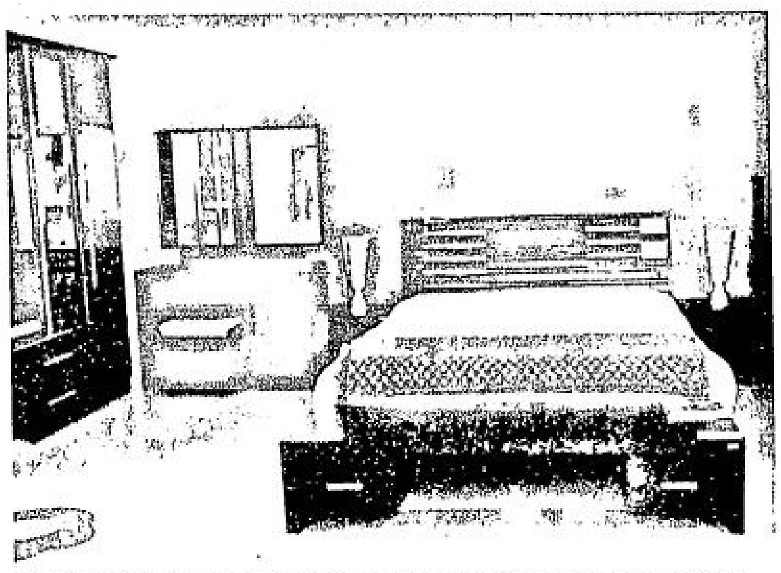


A BEDROOM showcase by Index Furniture, a popular furniture chain in Thailand. Index Furniture opened its first outlet in Ortigas Home Depot.



LIVING room set by Interior Design Options



IMPORTED European design bedroom showcase by Living n' Style

How to care for wood furniture

FURNITURE IS CRAFTED FROM WOOD THAT is carefully dried, retaining just enough moisture for the furniture to properly acclimate to the relative humidity in your home.

The wood continues to exchange moisture with the air, shrinking and expanding in response to changes in humidity. In a climate like ours, this fluctuation can wreak havoc on your hardwoods.

But it's surprisingly simple to protect and enhance hardwood's natural beauty. Here are some helpful tips on caring for your furniture from Ortigas Home Depot.

1. Read the manufacturer's care directions carefully and keep them handy for future reference.

2. Dust with a soft cloth by following the grain pattern of the wood. Use an old T-shirt of cloth nappy.

3. Dust often to remove everyday particles from wood surfaces. Before dusting, moisten cloth lightly with a spray product. A dry cloth can leave hard line scratches on the finish.

4. Surfaces can be cleaned with a mild alkaline soap and water. Use the suds on a damp sponge or cloth, but be sure to pre-test the solution on an out-of-sight section to make sure it doesn't damage the finish.

Dry immediately with a soft cloth and buff lightly, following the grain.

5. Wood finishes benefit from an occasional waxing or polishing. A paste wax can be applied every 6-12 months. Remove old wax first with a mild non-alkaline soap-and-water solution.

6. Avoid waxing urethane-finished furniture. Waxing these surfaces causes them to gather dust and dirt rather than repel it.

7. Unless your furniture has a new "super finish" to protect it, use coasters to prevent spills, stains and damage from hot dishes. Blot all spills immediately.

8. Keep solvents, alcohol, nail polish and polish removers away from your furniture surfaces.

9. When dusting, always lift lamps and other objects. Don't slide them across the furniture's surface.

10. Always lift furniture to move it. Don't drag them across the floor.

11. Open and close doors, drawers and lids gently.

12. Don't expose hardwood furniture to continuous direct sunlight. Draw the curtains occasionally.

13. For audio and visual entertainment appliances, always give careful consideration to space in the room. Keep it simple when installing coaxial cable, speaker cable, phone jacks, computer ports and outlets.

14. Wherever you install a TV monitor, always position the screen away from unshaded windows to avoid glare.

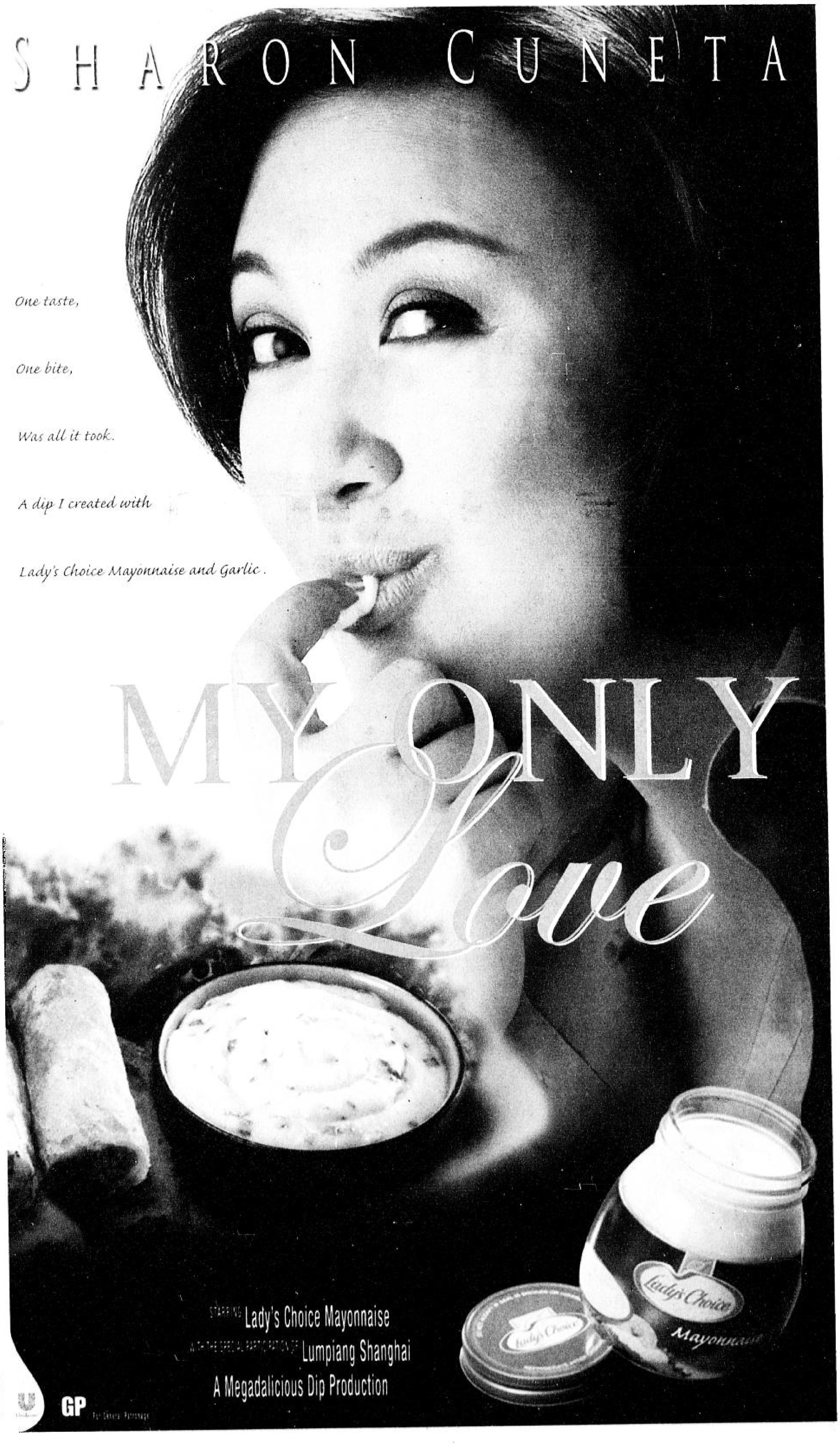
15. Store all your DVDs, cassette tapes and videotapes away from extremes of temperature and direct sunlight.

Ortigas Home Depot introduces the Great Home Furnishing Sale until Sept. 30. Located at the second floor of Ortigas Home Depot, a 6,000-sq m furniture center presents a wide array of furniture and appliances at special discounted prices.

Participants of the Great Home Furnishing Sale include Automatic Centre, Bed Center, Blims Fine Furniture, Contempo Designs, Evoluce Designs, Index Furnitures, Interior Design Options, Loft Details, Modas Lamps Collection, Modufit Inc. and Victoria Interiors.

Ortigas Home Depot is located at 1 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., Bgy. Ugong, Pasig City. Open everyday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

KITCHEN showcase by Modufit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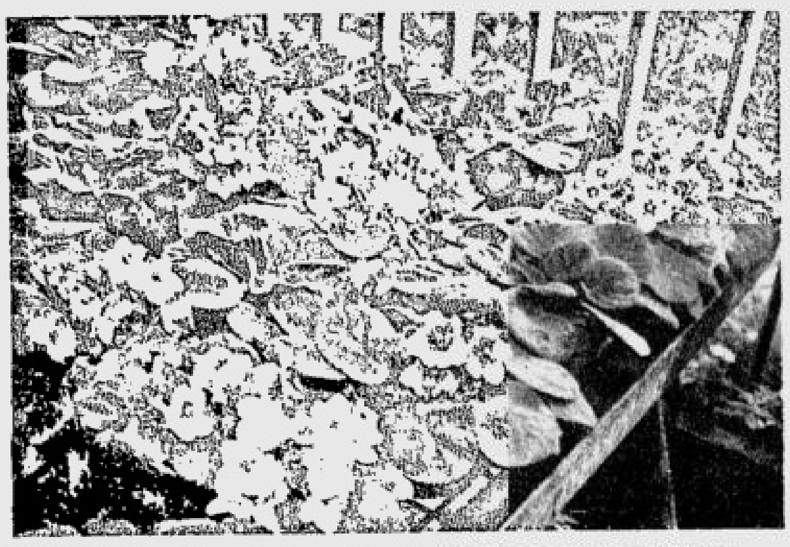
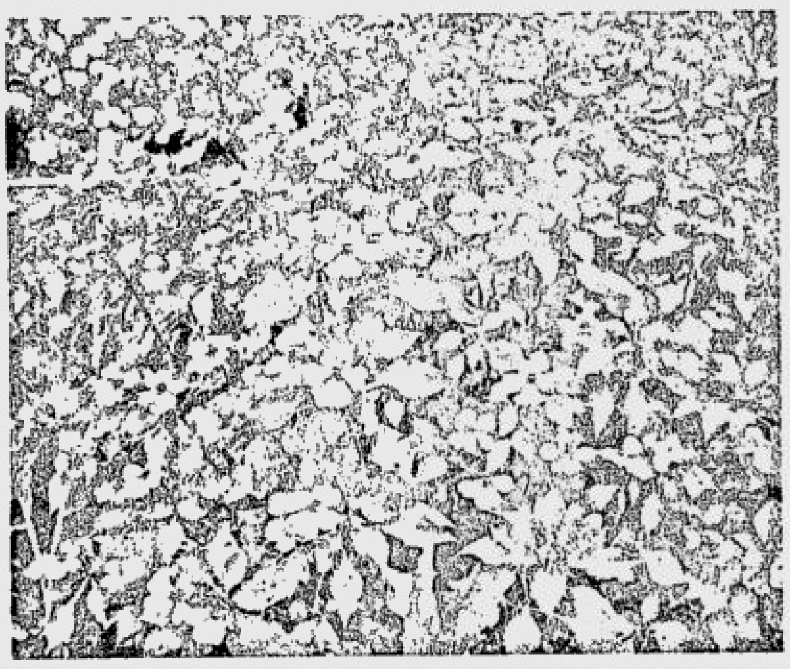
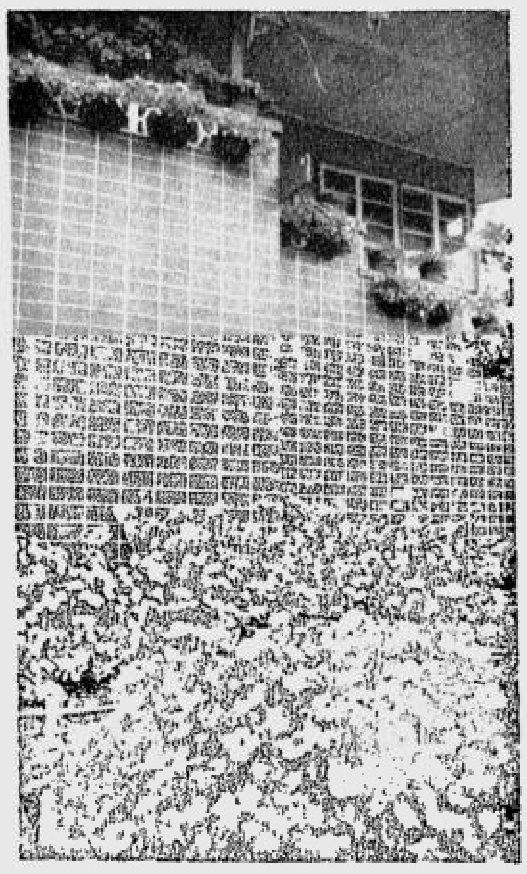


DELICATE and in need of special care, the propagation of African violets is not for everyone.



WITH its dainty flowers in shades of pink, lilac and white among others, impatiens, though not native to the country, has become a garden favorite.

THE ORANGE flowers of this prolific New Guinea creeper glow under a tree in the backyard garden.



IT MAY look fragile but impatiens is actually hardy and can grow anywhere given the right conditions.

A plant breeder's garden

Rey Pimentel's picture-pretty cottage stands out among the 70-or-so homes in a Del Monte employees' camp

REY PIMENTEL [illegible]

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Rudy Esperas

MASSES OF WHITE AND PINK flowers on the walls and an eye-catching garden in front were telltale signs that a plant lover lived in one of the cottages in an employees' camp at the Del Monte Plantation in Bukidnon.

The owner turned out to be not only a plant lover. Plant breeder Rey Pimentel, now manager of Del Monte's plant breeding and agricultural research, is also known among local horticulturists and garden societies for producing beautiful hibiscus (*gumamela*) crosses.

Prior to his current job, he was developing new flowering plants, like hoya vines and mussaendas, at the Institute of Plant Breeding at the University of the Philippines, Los Baños, Laguna.

Cottage garden

Pimentel's picture-pretty cottage stood out among the 70 or so homes at Del Monte camp. Impatiens covering the walls of his house were abloom, drawing the attention of passersby.

Pimentel's garden was a virtual showcase of ornamental and flowering plants that Metro Manila gardeners were crazy about.

Along the garden path, for example, were ferns interspersed with colorful ti plants, aroids, mussaendas, bromeliads, clerodendrons, annual flowering plants, African violets and many more. In another part of the garden were his hibiscus crosses, including the robust "Kris Aquino," a *gumamela* with flamboyant orange flowers.

His top-selling hibiscus series called Centennials, Millenniums and Celebrities were released in the market a few years ago.

Red New Guinea Creeper

An unexpected sight at the back of the cottage was a fascinating variety of New Guinea Creeper covered with flame-red flowers. They hung like long bouquets from branches of an avocado tree where its vigorous branches had anchored.

"It's the climate and fresh air that are responsible for the profuse blooming of this vine," Pimentel explained. Other varieties found elsewhere did not have flowers in such profusion and intense coloration.

"They have been in bloom for almost one month now," he said, adding that the vine produced flowers twice a year, usually at the onset of the rainy weather.

Field experiments

Pimentel's busy schedule includes visits to the experimental field where he is developing new varieties of Del Monte pineapples, papayas, passion fruits and guavas.

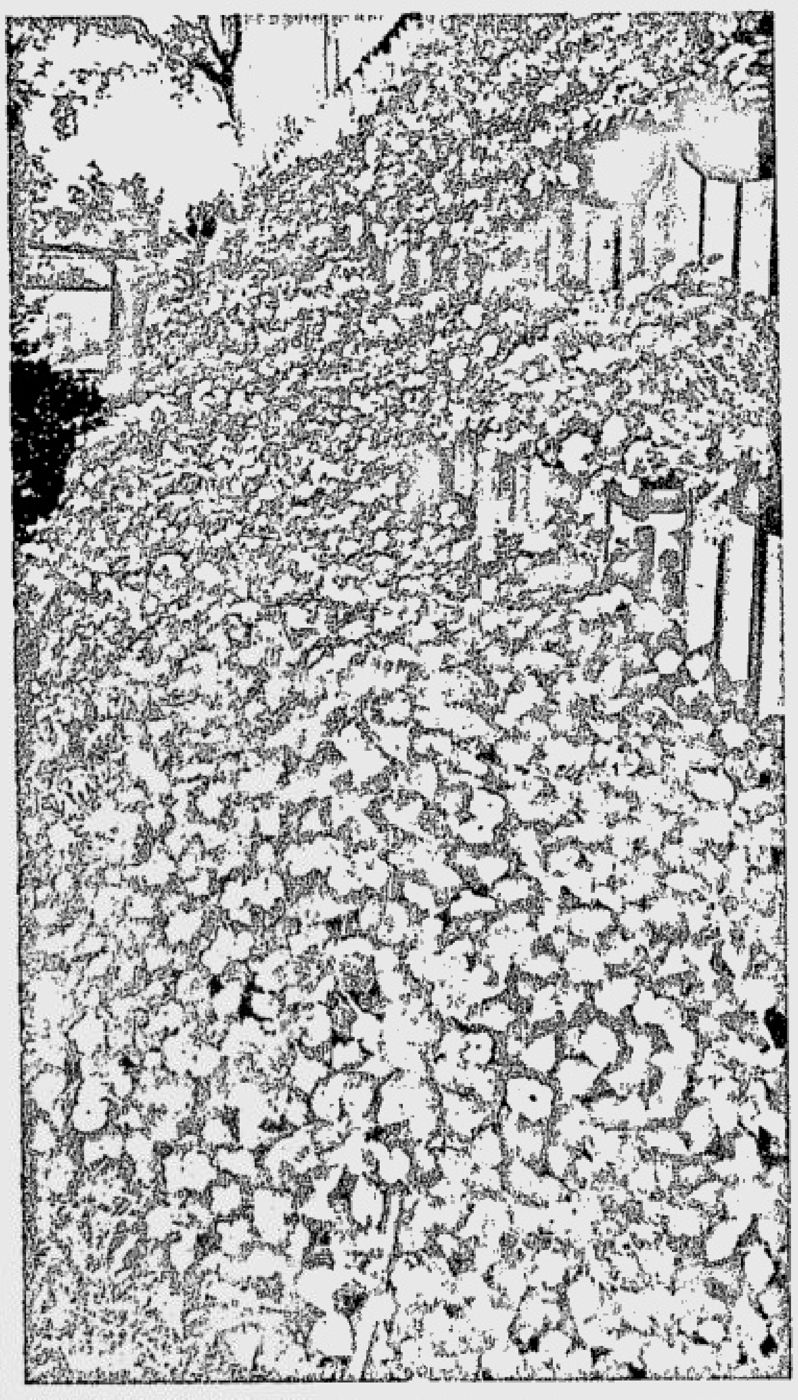
He is also in charge of the Pine World, a "museum" for different pineapples from all over the world. It now has about 80 varieties.

Working on his lovely garden is always a welcome break. Pimentel said he was going to start developing again new hoyas and mussaendas in his backyard during his spare time.

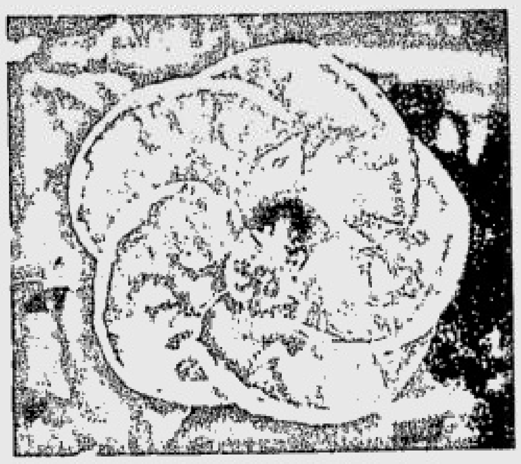
Pimentel can be reached at pilmentelrb@delmonte-phil.com.

DAZZLING flowers of New Guinea creeper draw attention away from ornamental *gabi* plant on the ground.

AFRICAN violets surprisingly thrive, and bloom at that, under the cottage.



FLOWERING impatiens in pink, red and white camouflage the *silong* of the cottage. The ground is covered with mondo grass.



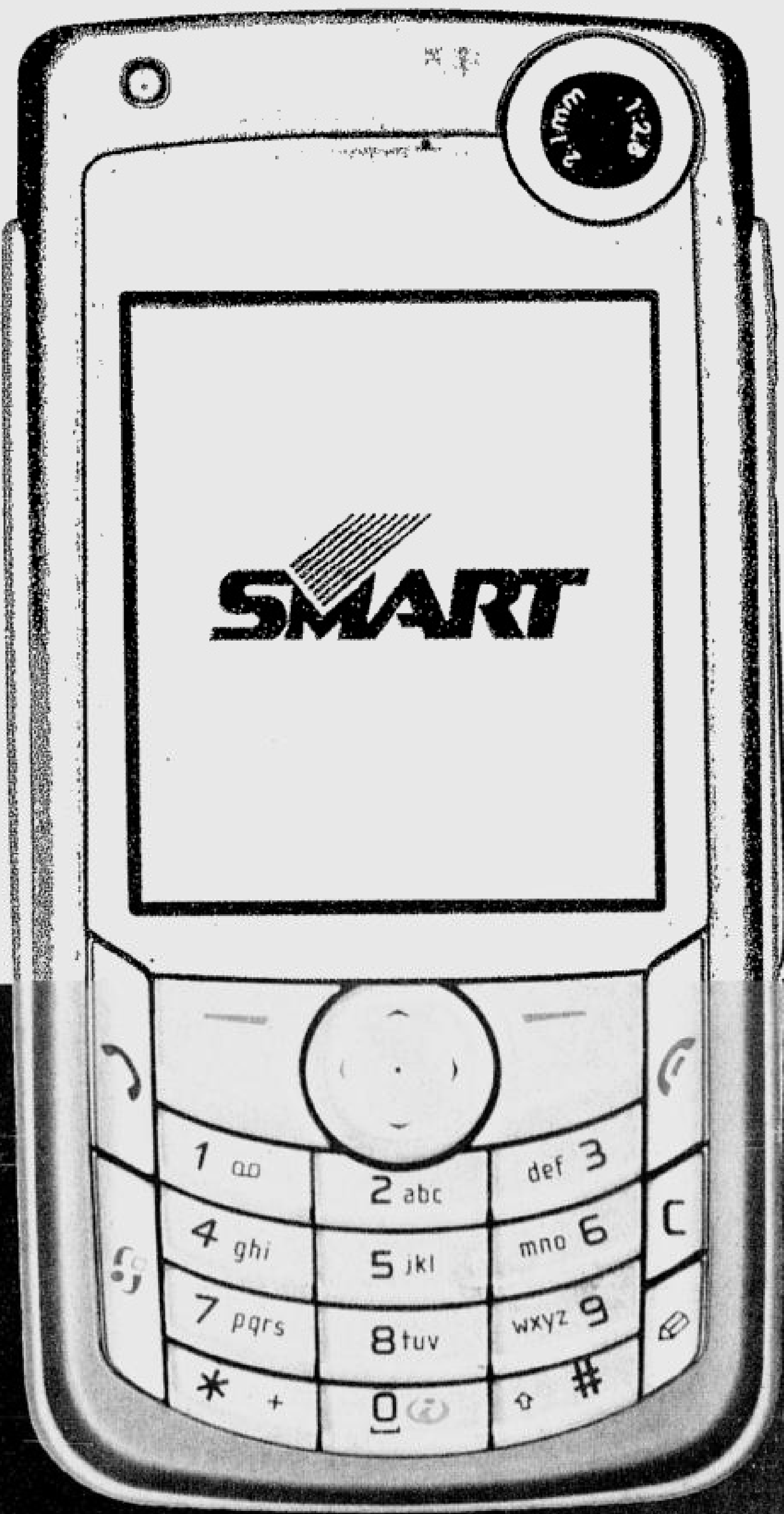
HIBISCUS "Kris Aquino" is one of the beautiful *gumamela* hybrids created by Pimentel.

The Phone You've Always Wanted (at 0% Interest)

There's a new deal being offered by SMART Communications Inc., the country's leading wireless provider. Starting September 11, 2005, both existing and non-SMART Gold subscribers can own a hot new Nokia mobile phone through the Deferred Payment Handset Package. Through this promo, anyone can sign up for either a SMART Gold Plan 800, 1200, 1800, 2500 and 3500 and choose their favorite mobile phone through easy installments ranging from 3, 6, 9 and 12 months, all at 0% interest, thanks to a unique tie-up between SMART, Nokia, participating banks and their affiliates. Whether you're a first time SMART Gold subscriber or an existing one who simply wants another line, the phone is yours at 0% interest!

Where can I avail of this promo?

SMART Gold subscribers can avail of this promo with the help of credit cards issued by partner banks and their affiliates until November 11, 2005. Participating banks and affiliates are HSBC (Mabuhay Miles and Red MasterCard), Standard Chartered Bank (Sunlife SCB, PBCom SCB, Rotary Club SCB), BPI (Petron MasterCard), AIG (Dolce Vita), Diners, AMEXCO and Equitable Card Network (Asiatrust, Banco Filipino, Bank of Commerce, Keppel Bank, Land Bank, Luzon Development Bank, PNB, Prudential Bank and UCPB). Equitable Bank qualifies in the promo until September 30, 2005.



Nokia 6680

At the top of most people's wish list is the Nokia 6680. A strikingly sophisticated phone, this handset is a must have for anyone who knows how to combine business with pleasure. Through the Deferred Payment Handset Package, you can own a brand new Nokia 6680 at monthly payments that are easy on the pocket. By signing up for a SMART Gold Plan 3500, the phone is yours for just 12 monthly payments of P958.33, interest free. Alternatively, you can opt to pay for your Nokia 6680 in 3 monthly installments of P3,833.33, 6 monthly installments of P1,916.67 or 9 monthly installments of P1,277.78. Whichever scheme you choose, the phone is yours at 0% interest! Packed in the Nokia 6680's elegant exterior are two integrated 1.3 megapixel cameras and VGA for those treasured moments. Share them with friends and family through MMS or its Nokia XpressPrint printing solution including PictBridge direct printing. Enjoy your favorite songs on the fly with the stereo audio music player. Browse the web to your heart's content using the high-speed connections with 3G and EDGE technology, and communicate better with the 6680's two-way video call capability for face-to-face conversations.

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What now?

To learn more about this exciting offer as well as other Nokia handsets you can avail of at 0% interest, get in touch with your nearest SMART Wireless Center. Existing SMART Gold subscribers may dial *888 from your SMART Gold celfone to reach the SMART Gold hotline. Non-SMART Gold subscribers can call SMART at 888-1111 for more information. This promo also applies to Addict Mobile. Remember, this offer lasts only until November 11, 2005, (Equitable Bank until September 30, 2005) so beat the mad rush and start inquiring today.

SMART GOLD NOKIA

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 2272 & 2270 Series of 2005.

Feast of furniture and home décor

FOR FINE FURNITURE, CHECK OUT Festival Supermall's furniture, antiques and home décor shops at the fourth level.

The Home Décor Bazaar boasts of stores like Renditions Furniture and Accessories, which offers a wide range of furniture and accessories that are locally manufactured and made of high-quality and export-grade Philippine mahogany. Best sellers include the palazzo-style bed and night table, the rectangular dining table and the entertainment cabinet. Renditions also offers valets, desk trays, lamps, jewelry boxes, wine racks and paintings.

Arts & Antiques offers the unique Cariton bed. This convertible Pinoy version of the sofa bed is made of molave wood. Other distinctive pieces are the curio cabinet made of fine wood and the narra kitchen cabinet.

The Cabecera shop has mirrors, frames and smooth-finished narra and molave *sala* sets and dining showcases.

OLD phonograph

For souvenir hunters, JED Furniture and Souvenir Shop has magazine racks made of Vigan acacia and mahogany and planters console tables.

Home Bazaar offers ethnic and imported furniture and furnishings, antiques and ceramic jars.

Behold, Victorian Treasure offers religious icons such as Our Lady of Santo Rosario de Naval in ivory and other exceptional materials, Christ-in-the-Cross, Sacred Heart, Santo Niño and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Other stores are Barnyard, La Sedia, Majeid's Carpet, Ergonomics, Gintong Sining, Hannah Classica, Cadi, Showcase Carpet, House of Pre-Cast, Homelink, Dimensione, Fine Elements, First Pinnacle, La Venere, SGO, Perfect Kitchen, Natural Art and Klappstuhl.

Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8503514.

Have 'A Potter's View' Sept. 17

BORDERS LAUNCHES "A POTter's View," a joint exhibit of artist-potters Pete Cortes and Pablo Capati, on Sept. 17, 3 p.m., at the store's showroom at 2291 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City.

Guests will not only view the functional art pieces, the specialty of the two artists, but will also be served afternoon tea in them. A slide show will give an overview of the pottery process.

Cortes has degrees in interior design from the University of Santo Tomas and the Philippine School of Interior Design. He has pursued a career in furniture design in the United States, Indonesia and the Philippines. He learned pottery at the Pettyjohn-Mendoza Pottery School where he is also now a teacher.

PETE Cortes and Pablo Capati

Last year he was accepted to—and attended—the two-month International Ceramic Workshop in Tokoname, Japan.

Capati learned pottery in Japan, studying it for three of the 10 years he lived in the country while his father worked for a multinational company. He then studied at the University of Southern California-Los Angeles, USA.

He turned to making pots but, because of his Japanese training, he wanted his works to be fired in a wood-fired Anagama-style kiln.

With the help of Pettyjohn and his wife Tessy, and using photographs, he was able to build his Anagama kiln.

"A Potter's View" is open to the public at Borders 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday-Saturday, Sept. 19-30. Call 8932905 or 8932908.

Lucena holds annual garden show

THE FLORA GARDEN CLUB OF Quezon will hold its 10th Annual Flower and Garden Show Sept. 16-25 in front of the Perez Park in Lucena City.

Featured this year is pocket gardening for limited spaces like condominiums, apartments and townhouses. More than 40 commercial exhibitors will also participate.

Dorie Bernabe of Ikebana International and Ikenobo and bonsai master Mody Manglicmot will open the show on Sept. 16, 2 p.m.

Awards will be given for Best Exhibit, Best Plant in Show, many plant categories, as well as flower arranging, dish gardening, on-the-spot painting and essay writing.

Call club president Dr. Raymundo Lo at 0917-5276712.

SAL Dungca of New York

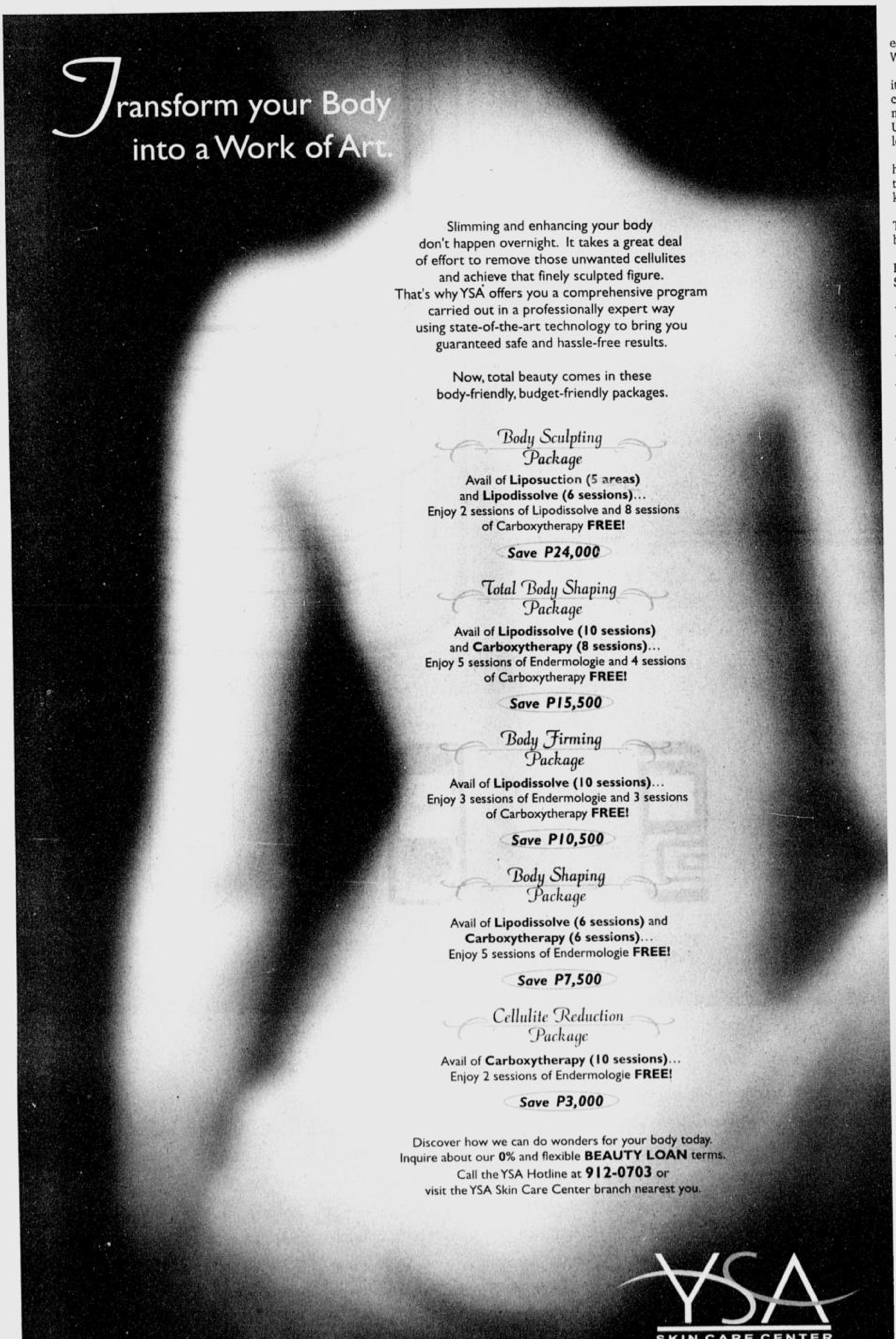
Mini Zen garden workshop

A SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON MINI waterfall zen garden will be held on Sept. 16-18, 1-6 p.m., at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Seedling Bank Environmental Center corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Feng shui experts consider waterfall zen garden lucky and a stress-reliever. Ikebana Prof. Serapion S. Metilla will teach how to make the catch basin, compose the rocks, attach the hose with the motor pump and anchor the plants on the rocks.

Participants will get a kit that includes sand, cement, volcanic rocks, motor pump, assorted plants, hose, clay and moss. Snacks, handouts and certificates will also be provided.

Call 9394593, 0917-8321352, or 4352479.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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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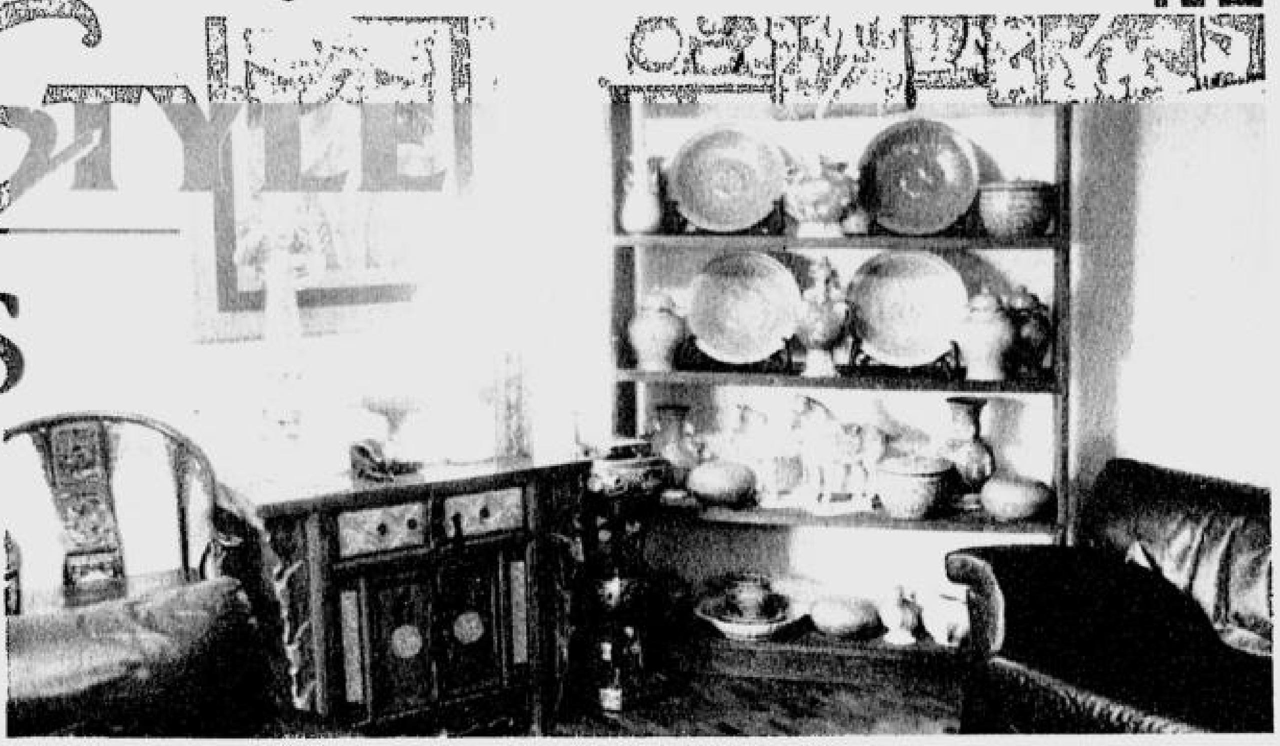
A wink at mom's design taste

A Makati condo unit reflects the give-and-take between a mother's and a daughter's sensibilities



ORIENTALIA with liberal touches of Filipiniana via artworks by Filipino painters

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

IT'S QUITE A stretch to imagine that the bubbly Chat Fores is a sedate version of her mom Beng. The interior designer, who also teaches at the Philippine School of Interior Design, seems to possess a natural ability to light up a room with her radiant presence, mirthful giggle and self-effacing ways.

She even has a vivid way of comparing herself with her mom (Chat, the youngest and only daughter, is the spitting image of her mom). Hardcore fashionistas are probably familiar with the two flamboyant women, as they're the mother-and-daughter team behind those huge one-of-a-kind bags and necklaces called Rambutan.

"My mom is like an all-red person," says Chat. "I'm more of a black person with a touch of red."

Whatever sets them apart artistically, the two were able to set it aside when they moved from a bigger house in Quezon City to a smaller condominium unit in Makati several years ago. The two-bedroom unit they now occupy soon became a three-bedroom affair.

"My dad bought a smaller unit adjacent to ours," Chat explains. "It was meant for my brother, but since he opted to live elsewhere, my dad had the wall separating the two units knocked down."

Why the big move in the first place?

A WINK/H2

BELO THERMAGE: BRINGS BACK 10 YEARS OF YOUTH!

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BELO THERMAGE is a wonderful alternative to the traditional face-lift and, when coupled with BELO'S APTOS THREAD PROCEDURE, your contemporaries will turn envious. Within the next 6 months, you will see and feel your skin tighten and renew itself.

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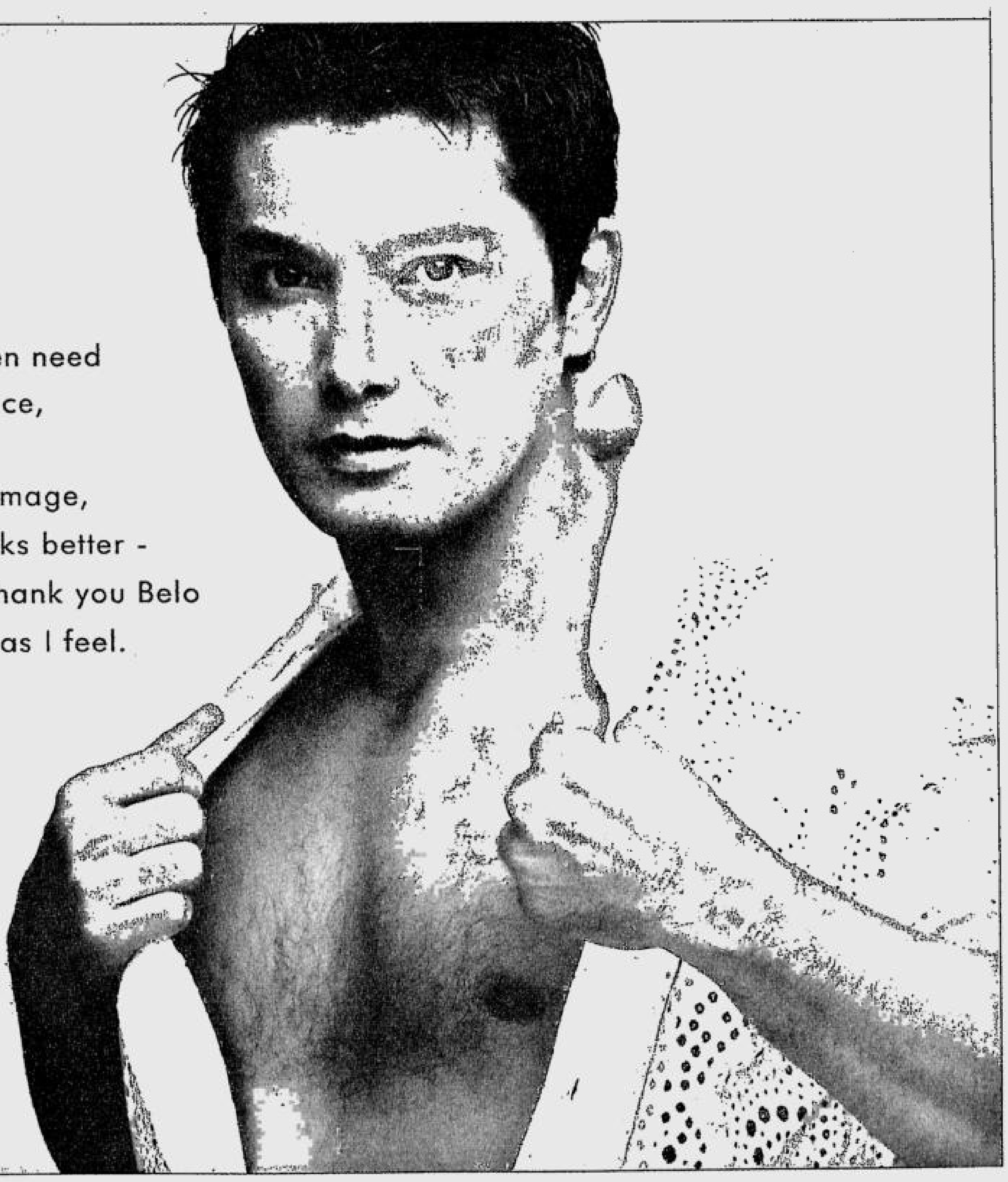

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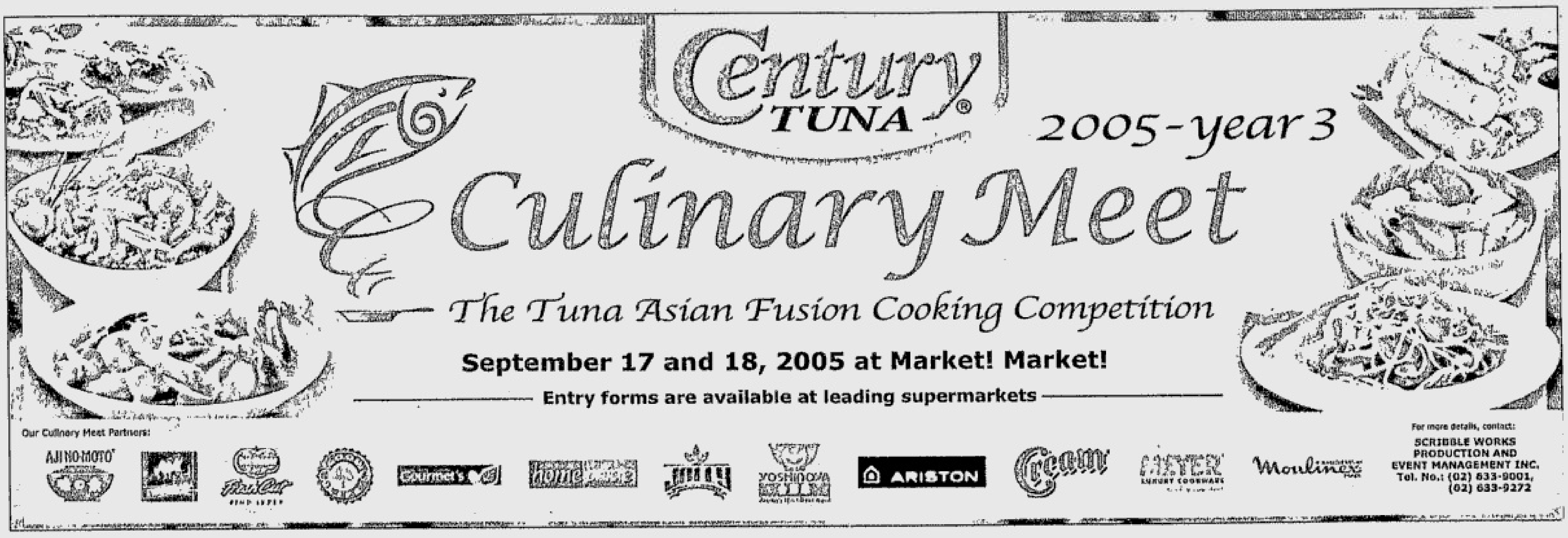

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A wink at mom's design taste

From page H1

After decades of shuttling every day between the two cities, Chat's dad Edgardo, a doctor at the Makati Medical Center, finally decided to move with his family near his place of work. Their old home, built in a sprawling, tree-lined property in New Manila, has since been converted to Chat's office and Rambutan's showroom.

"I don't mind driving all the way to Quezon City," she says. "Anyway, I go against the rush-hour traffic."

Apart from attending to clients and sourcing for materials, Chat still finds the time to share her knowledge with students. She finds such exchanges with young people stimulating.

The fruits of her efforts, as well as that of her fellow teachers, will be on exhibit starting Sept. 30 at Greenbelt 1 as this year's batch of graduating students of PSID "Gets Personal."

Chat's older siblings, Leo and Miguel, who also practice medicine at Makati Med, have flown the coop and started their own families.

Fitting the stuff in

Of course, one of the biggest challenges that confronted Chat was how to fit all their stuff in. The problem became more pronounced since her parents are avid collectors of Chinese antiques and artworks by renowned Filipino painters such as Amorsolo, Legaspi, Austria and Galicano.

Rather than insist on doing the impossible, the family became more selective. In other words, they either left behind some of their prized possessions in New Manila or sold some pieces to relatives and friends.

They still had a substantial number of pieces left after the purging process. The family was also able to retain quite a number of paintings both by famous and unknown artists. Not a few of these eclectic artworks have ended up along the walls leading to the bedrooms.

"What you now see is an edited version of what we used to have," says Chat. "It's funny because the pieces didn't seem that numerous before. It's only later when I realized that they used to be spread far apart from each other in the old house."

To put some order in the collection, Chat had several nondescript shelves fashioned from ordinary wood. It was a wise decision to opt for toned-down showcases since her parents' prized pieces are already visually powerful.

The two shelves now occupy both corners of the wall leading to Chat's former office. One features dishes and jars from her folks' blue-and-white collection, while the other displays

NONDESCRIPT sh
collection

pieces from their cel

Clashes and con

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While at it, Chat
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from dynasties past

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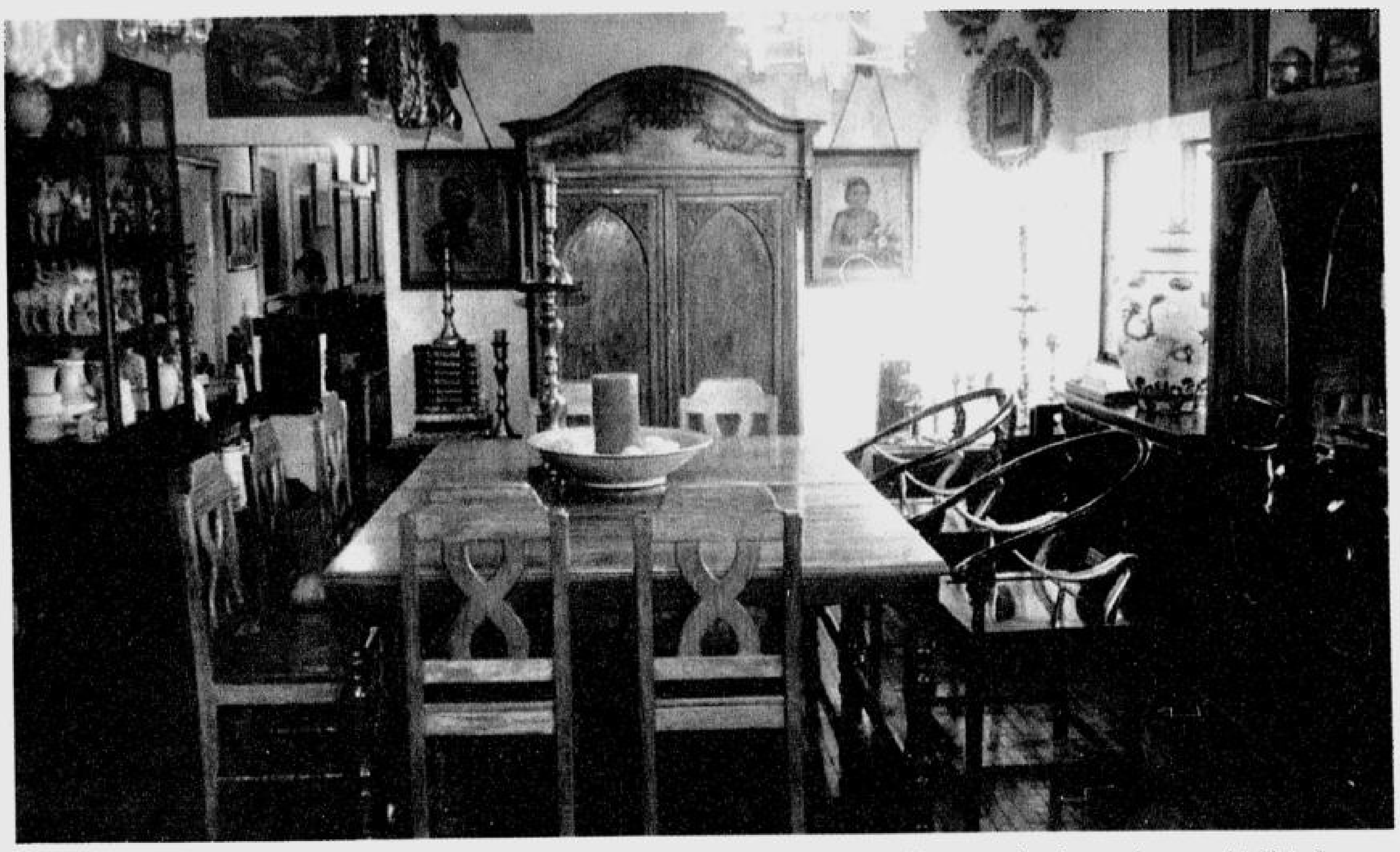
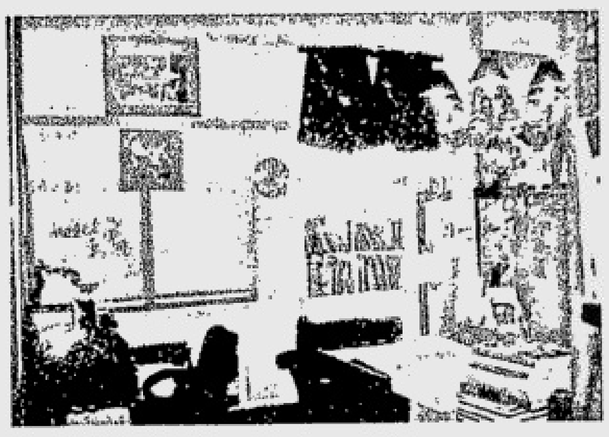
such as candelabra



THE NINE-SEATER has two antique Chinese chairs into the mix. The two paintings between the cabinet were done by an unknown artist. Not a few visitors, however, mistake them for Amorsolos.

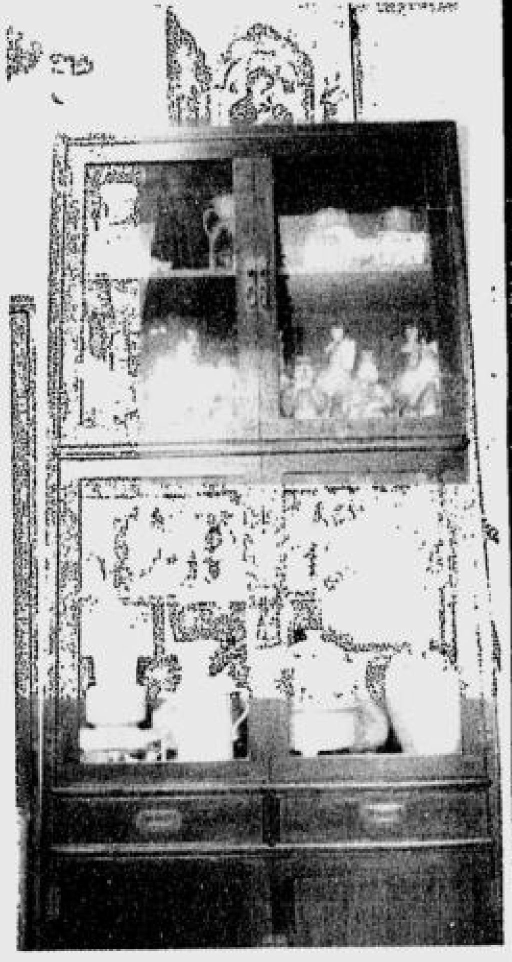


THE BANNER dangling from the ceiling is one of Beng Fores' contribution.

CHAT Fores describes herself as a "black person with a touch of red."

IN this corner are blue-and-white pieces

SNAKE carvings on the cabinet echo the snakeskin wrapped around the lamp's pole.



ANTIQUE china cabinet displays miniature porcelain and terra cotta pieces from dynasties past.

'Worse than a gay lover?'

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I have been living in Dubai for five months now. I have an eight-month relationship with my boyfriend. He and I started as textmates and it was only after six months that we decided to meet. He's not a trophy boyfriend but his brain is sexy. His looks and aura are absolutely zero.

Even my friends say he is not my type. Though I was disappointed in him physically I still accepted him as a friend.

He was hesitant after that first meeting because of his physical attributes (not that I'm pretty but I think I'm a headturner... blush).

I don't know why but I like him. And, after two years of courtship, I finally gave my happy "yes" in November two months before I left.

We're fine and the roots of our relationship are getting deeper. Our communication does not stop. He calls or sends text messages everyday.

But the question now is money! He told me he'd visit me here in Dubai. So I said I'd pay for his airfare. I'm dying to see him.

But when I told my best friend my plan, she said I was worse than a gay lover. She said he should pay for his own fare. But he is still a student pilot, dependent on his family's support.

We talked about the "future" and all... and now all he wants is to be with me. He told me he did not want to work yet because he wanted to finish his training first (he's a private pilot now). But the truth is he's the easy-going, laid-back type of guy.

I'm having second thoughts about sending him a ticket. But I love him and I want to see him. I'm not a big earner but I can "skip" lunch to have the money for his ticket.

Is it right to spend money on him even if he's only a boyfriend?

RIZABETH

It's been said that absence makes the heart grow fonder. That makes many couples who have just fallen in love look at their relationship with so much romance the moment they get separated from each other.

> 'I said I'd pay for his airfare (so he could visit me in Dubai). I'm dying to see him'

The great divide is making them want to be together all the time. And they will do everything in their power to do just that, including spending for the other regardless of wagging tongues...

If you can afford it, do it. If it will make you happy, do whatever your heart desires. Your friends care for you and are just looking out for your interest. Some of them may have been preyed upon by previous lovers and know very well that love can be so blind and very expensive! Experience is the best teacher.

It's ok for you to give him everything you can afford because you miss him and really want to see him. It's your money and you can do anything with it. But take care he doesn't become too dependent on you.

Being an OFW (overseas Filipino worker) shouldn't be reason for him to look at you like an ATM (automated teller machine). Just don't spoil him too much.

Love him well, but hold on to your wallet!

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

50 ways to leave a lover

I just had a fight with my live-in partner of three years. At first our quarrels and his bad behavior were tolerable. But a week ago his anger was so intense he verbally abused me nonstop by text.

He used cuss words, venomous words that made me feel stupid, whorish, inadequate! I felt like garbage. He even prayed for my instant death.

I am tired and miserable. I've had enough of him! I want to stay away from him forever.

We are separated now by our jobs—I am in the Visayas and he is in Mindanao. What do I do to stand firm and leave him now?

RL

Nothing prevents you from getting out of this relationship. You didn't mention children, so it's very easy to run out the door and escape this abusive man, faster than you can say "jerk!"

It will be very difficult at first. But when you start getting weak and missing him and wanting to go back to him again, look at yourself in the mirror and tell yourself that you two are finished! There's absolutely nothing more for both of you... and you've reached the dead end of what you once called love.

Nobody has the right to humiliate anybody. And no one should make you lose your self-respect. You should expect humane-ness and courtesy, no matter how bad the relationship is.

Hurtful words said in anger are like nails driven into wood. They bore holes and leave marks. Woods don't feel, but hearts bleed and hurt, and become very sad.

Nothing is so heartbreaking as when love dies. But, as in everything, you get up and brush away the bad memories. Cry your heart out while you're at it because it's good for you! It'll wash off all the anger and rid you of the heavy load you carry.

And one morning, in a not too distant future, you'll wake up and feel totally reborn. Move on and never look back!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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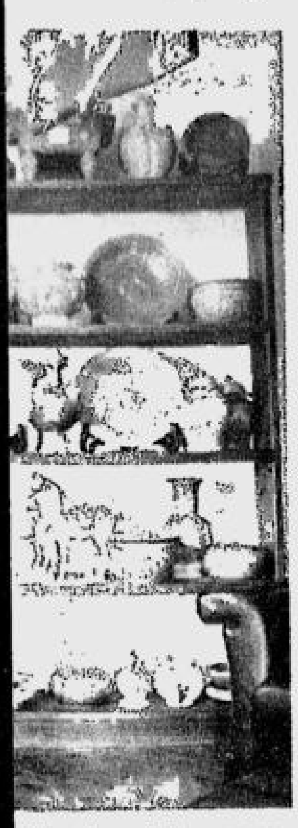

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m wholeheartedly agrees
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converted an antique chi-
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ges of Chinese soldiers

here our plates are," she
"They're hidden some-

o couldn't stand snakes,
or in pictures, Chat is par-
akeskin. The much ma-
ended up in accent pieces
s and lamp stands in the

living room. She loves the look of snakeskin, she declares. Just don't make her touch them.

Even the family's nine-seater of a dining table (it was originally meant as a 10-seater) is a bit off the mark. Of course, Chat, who added two antique Chinese chairs to go with the generic narra pieces, had a hand in it.

"I had no voice when they got those narra chairs," she says in mock indignation. "When I finally got a say, I decided to have a little fun by getting the pair (of Chinese chairs) and adding them into the mix."

Much as she likes to distance her design sensibilities from her mom, there's no denying the fact that Chat is her mother's daughter. When she was much younger, she says, they used to clash. But this has ceased lately.

"As I got older," she says, "I gradually discovered that I've become more and more like my mom. People attest that my temper, my taste and even my voice on the phone have become very much like hers."

There were even times when they went their separate ways in the mall only to meet up later carrying the same items. Not that Chat minds the comparison. In fact, she seems flattered by it.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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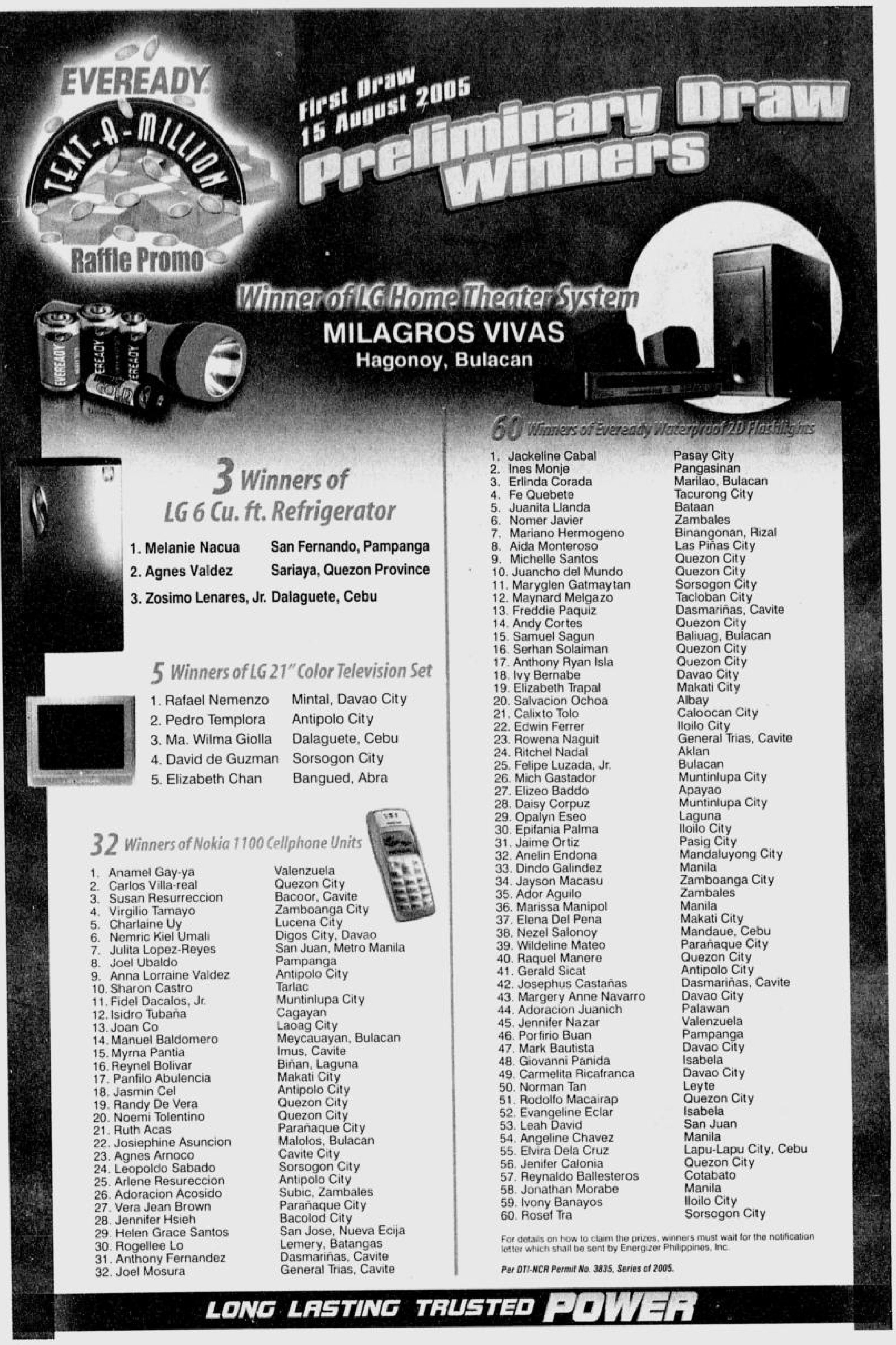

First Draw
15 August 2005

Preliminary Draw Winners

Winner of LG Home Theater System

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3 Winners of LG 6 Cu. ft. Refrigerator

1. Melanie Nacua	San Fernando, Pampanga
2. Agnes Valdez	Sariaya, Quezon Province
3. Zosimo Lenares, Jr.	Dalaguete, Cebu

5 Winners of LG 21" Color Television Set

1. Rafael Nemenzo	Mintal, Davao City
2. Pedro Templora	Antipolo City
3. Ma. Wilma Giolla	Dalaguete, Cebu
4. David de Guzman	Sorsogon City
5. Elizabeth Chan	Bangued, Abra

32 Winners of Nokia 1100 Cellphone Units

1. Anamel Gay-ya	Valenzuela
2. Carlos Villa-real	Quezon City
3. Susan Resurreccion	Bacoor, Cavite
4. Virgilio Tamayo	Zamboanga City
5. Charlaine Uy	Lucena City
6. Nemric Kiel Umali	Digos City, Davao
7. Julita Lopez-Reyes	San Juan, Metro Manila
8. Joel Ubaldo	Pampanga
9. Anna Lorraine Valdez	Antipolo City
10. Sharon Castro	Tarlac
11. Fidel Dacalos, Jr.	Muntinlupa City
12. Isidro Tubaña	Cagayan
13. Joan Co	Laoag City
14. Manuel Baldomero	Meycauayan, Bulacan
15. Myrna Pantia	Imus, Cavite
16. Reynel Bolivar	Biñan, Laguna
17. Panfilo Abulencia	Makati City
18. Jasmin Cel	Antipolo City
19. Randy De Vera	Quezon City
20. Noemi Tolentino	Quezon City
21. Ruth Acas	Parañaque City
22. Josiephine Asuncion	Malolos, Bulacan
23. Agnes Arnoco	Cavite City
24. Leopoldo Sabado	Sorsogon City
25. Arlene Resureccion	Antipolo City
26. Adoracion Acosido	Subic, Zambales
27. Vera Jean Brown	Parañaque City
28. Jennifer Hsieh	Bacolod City
29. Helen Grace Santos	San Jose, Nueva Ecija
30. Rogellee Lo	Lemery, Batangas
31. Anthony Fernandez	Dasmariñas, Cavite
32. Joel Mosura	General Trias, Cavite

60 Winners of Eveready Waterproof 2D Flashlights

1. Jackeline Cabal	Pasay City
2. Ines Monje	Pangasinan
3. Erlinda Corada	Marilao, Bulacan
4. Fe Quebete	Tacurong City
5. Juanita Llanda	Bataan
6. Nomer Javier	Zambales
7. Mariano Hermogeno	Binangonan, Rizal
8. Aida Monteroso	Las Piñas City
9. Michelle Santos	Quezon City
10. Juancho del Mundo	Quezon City
11. Maryglen Gatmaytan	Sorsogon City
12. Maynard Melgazo	Tacloban City
13. Freddie Paquiz	Dasmariñas, Cavite
14. Andy Cortes	Quezon City
15. Samuel Sagun	Baliuag, Bulacan
16. Serhan Solaiman	Quezon City
17. Anthony Ryan Isla	Quezon City
18. Ivy Bernabe	Davao City
19. Elizabeth Trapal	Makati City
20. Salvacion Ochoa	Albay
21. Calixto Tolo	Caloocan City
22. Edwin Ferrer	Iloilo City
23. Rowena Naguit	General Trias, Cavite
24. Ritchel Nadal	Aklan
25. Felipe Luzada, Jr.	Bulacan
26. Mich Gastador	Muntinlupa City
27. Elizeo Baddo	Apayao
28. Daisy Corpuz	Muntinlupa City
29. Opalyn Eseo	Laguna
30. Epifania Palma	Iloilo City
31. Jaime Ortiz	Pasig City
32. Anelin Endona	Mandaluyong City
33. Dindo Galindez	Manila
34. Jayson Macasu	Zamboanga City
35. Ador Aguilo	Zambales
36. Marissa Manipol	Manila
37. Elena Del Pena	Makati City
38. Nezel Salonoy	Mandaue, Cebu
39. Wildeline Mateo	Parañaque City
40. Raquel Manere	Quezon City
41. Gerald Sicat	Antipolo City
42. Josephus Castañas	Dasmariñas, Cavite
43. Margery Anne Navarro	Davao City
44. Adoracion Juanich	Palawan
45. Jennifer Nazar	Valenzuela
46. Porfirio Buan	Pampanga
47. Mark Bautista	Davao City
48. Giovanni Panida	Isabela
49. Carmelita Ricafranca	Davao City
50. Norman Tan	Leyte
51. Rodolfo Macairap	Quezon City
52. Evangeline Eclar	Isabela
53. Leah David	San Juan
54. Angeline Chavez	Manila
55. Elvira Dela Cruz	Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu
56. Jenifer Calonia	Quezon City
57. Reynaldo Ballesteros	Cotabato
58. Jonathan Morabe	Manila
59. Ivony Banayos	Iloilo City
60. Rosef Tra	Sorsogon City

For details on how to claim the prizes, winners must wait for the notification letter which shall be sent by Energizer Philippines, Inc.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3835, Series of 2005.

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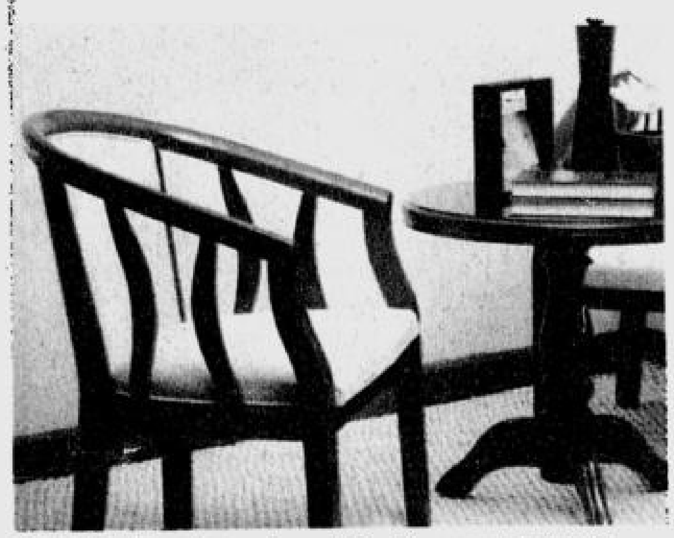
A chair can be more than a chair



DELICATELY sculptured wood Gracilla accent chair with cherry finish and beige fabric

CREATE YOUR OWN SPECIAL corner in your house with accent chairs from Our Home, the lifestyle store offering great designs at great prices.

Chairs range from modern to traditional. They are stylishly upholstered in soft fabric or leather.

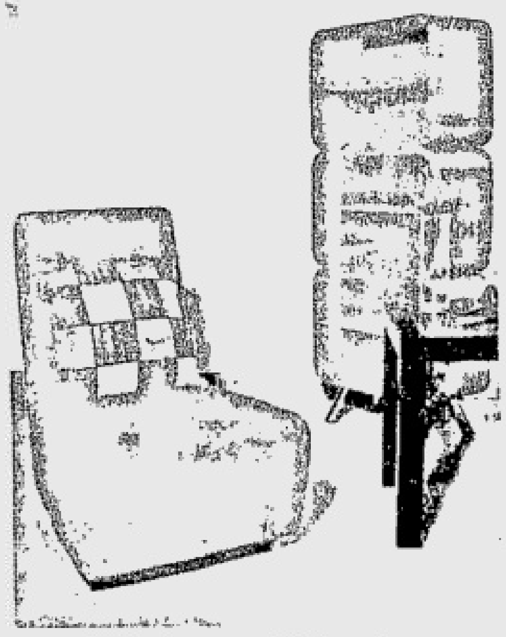
Here are some tips on creating your special space with accent chairs from Our Home:

- Add a delicately sculpted wooden accent chair beside a round cherry table and a row of art frames.
- Cozy up with a Stephanie mocha leatherette wooden chair. It's perfect for any room or corner.
- Go retro with a red accent chair with a matching bookcase cabinet.
- Listen to your favorite music while enjoying your favorite snack in a sleek and modern aluminum accent chair.
- Entertain friends in your favorite corner with a Malaysian leather chair accent.

The Accent Chair collection is available at Our Home's Metro Manila stores at SM Megamall, SM Fairview and SM Southmall, as well as in some provincial areas: SM City Bacoor, SM City Pampanga, SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio, SM City Marilao, SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Batangas, and SM City Iloilo.

SOFT supreme and Geraint accent chair

MALAYSIAN leather accent chair with rubber wood



SHARIESE red accent chair has retro influence.

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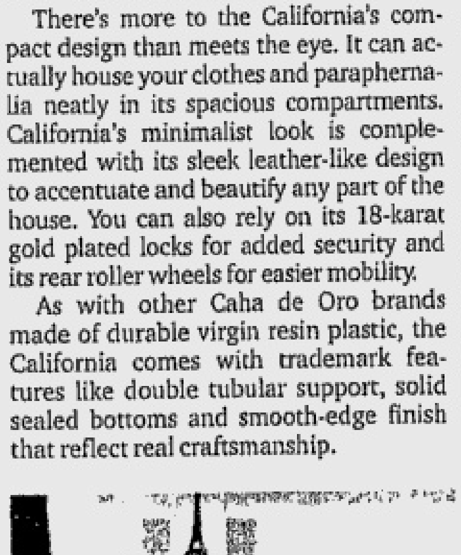
MAINTAINING A SMALL space should not keep you from fixing your place the way you want it to. Check out Caha de Oro's latest addition to its innovative line of home organizers—the California.

There's more to the California's compact design than meets the eye. It can actually house your clothes and paraphernalia neatly in its spacious compartments. California's minimalist look is complemented with its sleek leather-like design to accentuate and beautify any part of the house. You can also rely on its 18-karat gold plated locks for added security and its rear roller wheels for easier mobility.

As with other Caha de Oro brands made of durable virgin resin plastic, the California comes with trademark features like double tubular support, solid sealed bottoms and smooth-edge finish that reflect real craftsmanship.



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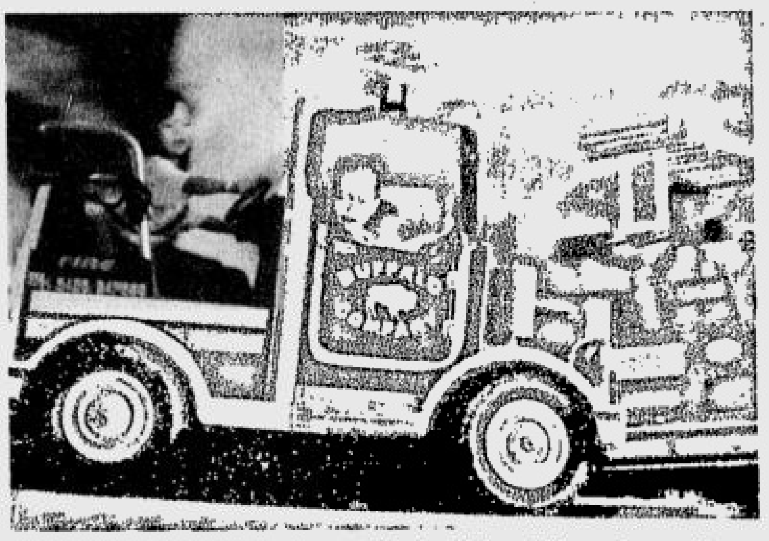
FLOAT away to your heart's content on the water or in the air with the Balloon Wheel and the Wild River.

GET blown away in a flurry as you ride the coolest indoor coaster in town, the Blizzard.



THE YOUNGEST drivers show off their driving skills on the smallest off-road adventure in the world, The Rodeo.

Theme park lights up for Christmas

STAR CITY IS LIGHTING UP once more for the coming Christmas season starting Sept. 16 with its program, "Saya to the Max!"

"Christmas is never complete without a trip to Star City," said 16-year-old high school senior, Gianna, who had been visiting the complex since she was a child.

Jose Marco, a taxi driver and father of three boys, said he never fails to bring his rambunctious brood to Star City every year.

He explained the P200 Ride-All-You-Can promo is unbeatable by any standard.

While his children take the rides, Marco said he and his wife go bargain-hunting for holiday gifts at Star City's indoor shopping complex, which has novelty shops offering clothes, home accessories, shoes and bags, sporting goods, cosmetics, edible delicacies, watches, wallets and toys.

Star City is also the place for stargazing.

On Sept. 17, there will be a concert featuring Starstruck singing idols Jennilyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Yasmien Kurdi, Rainier Castillo, Ryza Senon, Mike Tan, LJ Reyes and CJ Muere.

A total of 33 rides and attractions await the visitor.

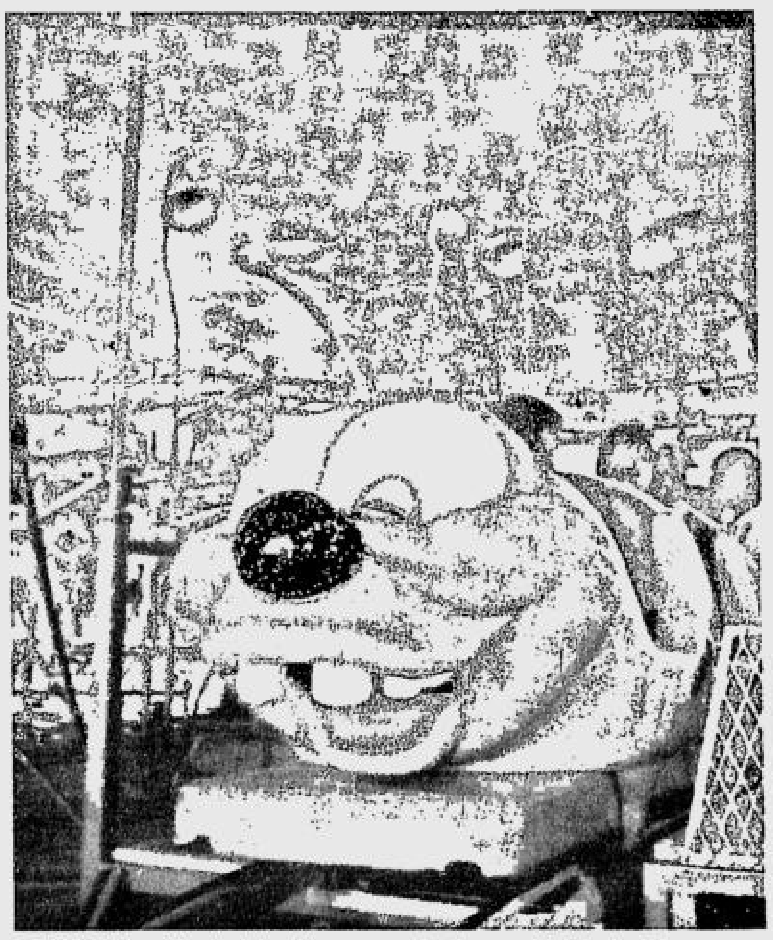
Some of the latest exhibits include "Kong" and a menagerie of creatures from the pre-historic age, and the Zyklon roller-coaster with its 360-degree loop!

Visitors may join the "Free 5 Ride" promo, in which surprise winners are picked out and given free tickets for five rides.

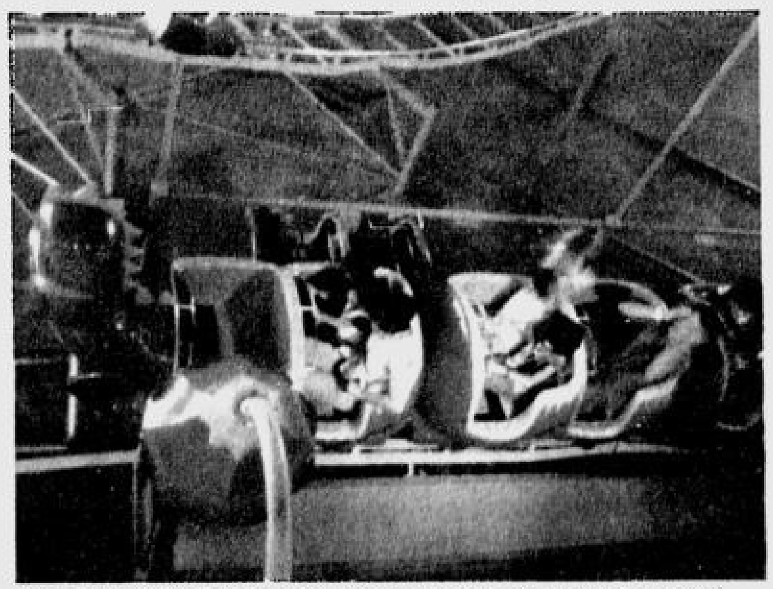
"With Star City's convenient location, affordable tickets, great rides and programs, I think you'll be hard-pressed to see a more reasonably priced form of entertainment for the whole family," says VP for operations Santi Elizalde. "That's why we call the Star City experience 'Saya to the Max!'"

Starting Sept. 16, Star City will be open from 4 p.m. on weekdays, and from 1 p.m. on weekends. Tickets are only P50 for entrance and P200 for Ride-All-You-Can tags.

Star City is at the CCP Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.



COME ride with the friendliest worm in the world, Wacky Worm, as he takes you on a ride around his beautiful giant garden.



HOLD on tight as our Wacky Dragon flies you through his magical kingdom.

Our Promo, **ROOM** for as low as **P1,350** net per person on twin sharing

INCLUSIONS
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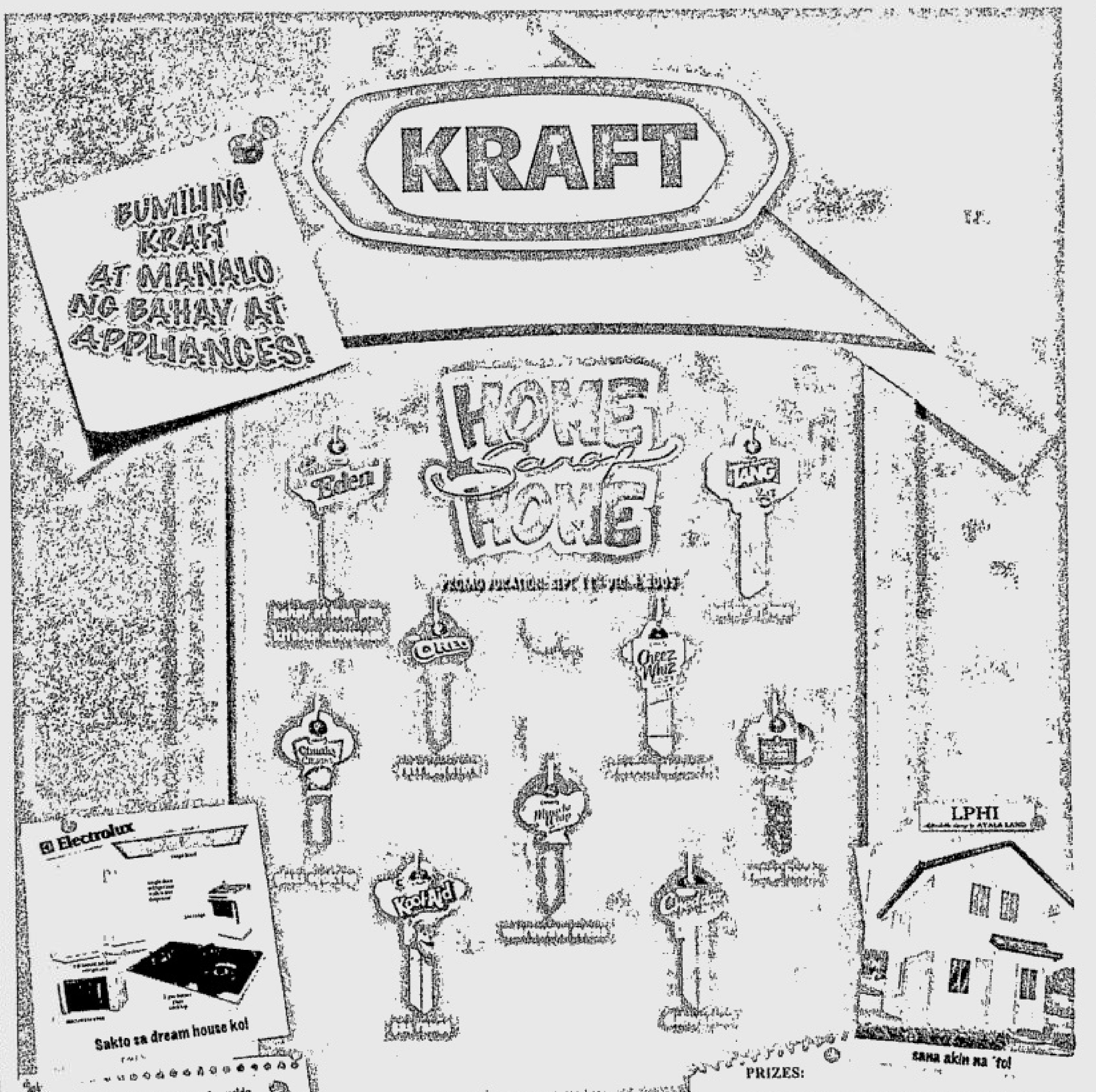


KRAFT
BUMILI NG KRAFT AT MANALO NG BAHAY AT APPLIANCES!
HOME Sarap HOME
Electrolux
Sakto sa dream house ko!
Over 100 winners nationwide
LPHI
sana akin na 'to!

DRAW DATES:

1st Weekly Draw:	Oct. 8, 2005
2nd Weekly Draw:	Oct. 15, 2005
3rd Weekly Draw:	Oct. 22, 2005
1st Preliminary Draw:	Oct. 29, 2005
4th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 5, 2005
5th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 12, 2005
6th Weekly Draw:	Nov. 19, 2005
2nd Preliminary Draw:	Nov. 26, 2005
Grand Draw:	Dec. 4, 2005

DRAW DETAILS:

- All draws will be conducted at Promotech Resource office/warehouse (Rm. 208 Don Raul Bldg. 77 Kamuning Rd., QC). Winners will be drawn by Kraft Foods Philippines, Inc. Marketing and/or Sales Representative(s) and witnessed by the BFAD representative.
- A participant can only win once per draw but he/she shall not be excluded from winning in other draws. If a name is drawn more than once per draw, he/she gets the prize of the higher value and a replacement draw is done for the prize(s) of lower value.
- Non-winning entries will still be included in the succeeding draws.

PAANO SUMALI?

If you are a Filipino, 18 years old and above, write on a piece of paper the promo title "KRAFT HOME SARAP HOME", your complete name, birthday, complete address, phone number and signature. Enclose this with 2 different Kraft brands' packaging, wrappers and/or caps in an envelope marked with the promo title "Home Sarap Home". Your raffle entry may be dropped in drop boxes located at participating groceries and supermarkets, or send it to PO Box 3126. Similar products that are not manufactured or imported and distributed by Kraft Foods Philippines, Inc. are excluded from this promotion. Please check back labels of Kraft products for Manufacturer/Importer information.

Halimbawa ng isusulat:

Juan dela Cruz
July12, 1980
123 Kamagong Street
Asuncion Village, Q.C.
Tel. # 575-8989,
Cell # 0914-558-9898

Halimbawa ng Kraft Brand wrapper combo.

Sali ko lahat 'to!

PRIZES:

WEEKLY DRAW: *4 winners per area (GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). Each wins an item from* Electrolux.

1st PRELIMINARY DRAW: *1 winner per area (GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). Each wins an* Electrolux Showcase: a 9 cu. ft. single door refrigerator with water dispenser, gas range, range hood and microwave oven.

2nd PRELIMINARY DRAW: *1 winner per area (GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao). Each wins an* Electrolux Showcase: a 9 cu. ft. single door refrigerator with water dispenser, gas range, range hood and microwave oven. A 5th winner to win a Sta. Catalina House & Lot (by Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc.).

GRAND DRAW: *1 winner of a Sta. Catalina House & Lot* (located at Sta. Catalina Village, Dasmariñas Cavite by Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc.) PLUS Electrolux Showcase: a dishwasher, a 10 cu. ft. 2 door no-frost refrigerator, a 3-gas burner glass cooktop and a range hood.

IMPORTANT: Winners will be notified via registered mail. This will inform them as to where, when and how to claim or receive their prizes.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0795 Series of 200

Miracle Whip Chunky Chunks OREO Eden TANG Cheez Whiz Kool-Aid Maxwell House Cheddar

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

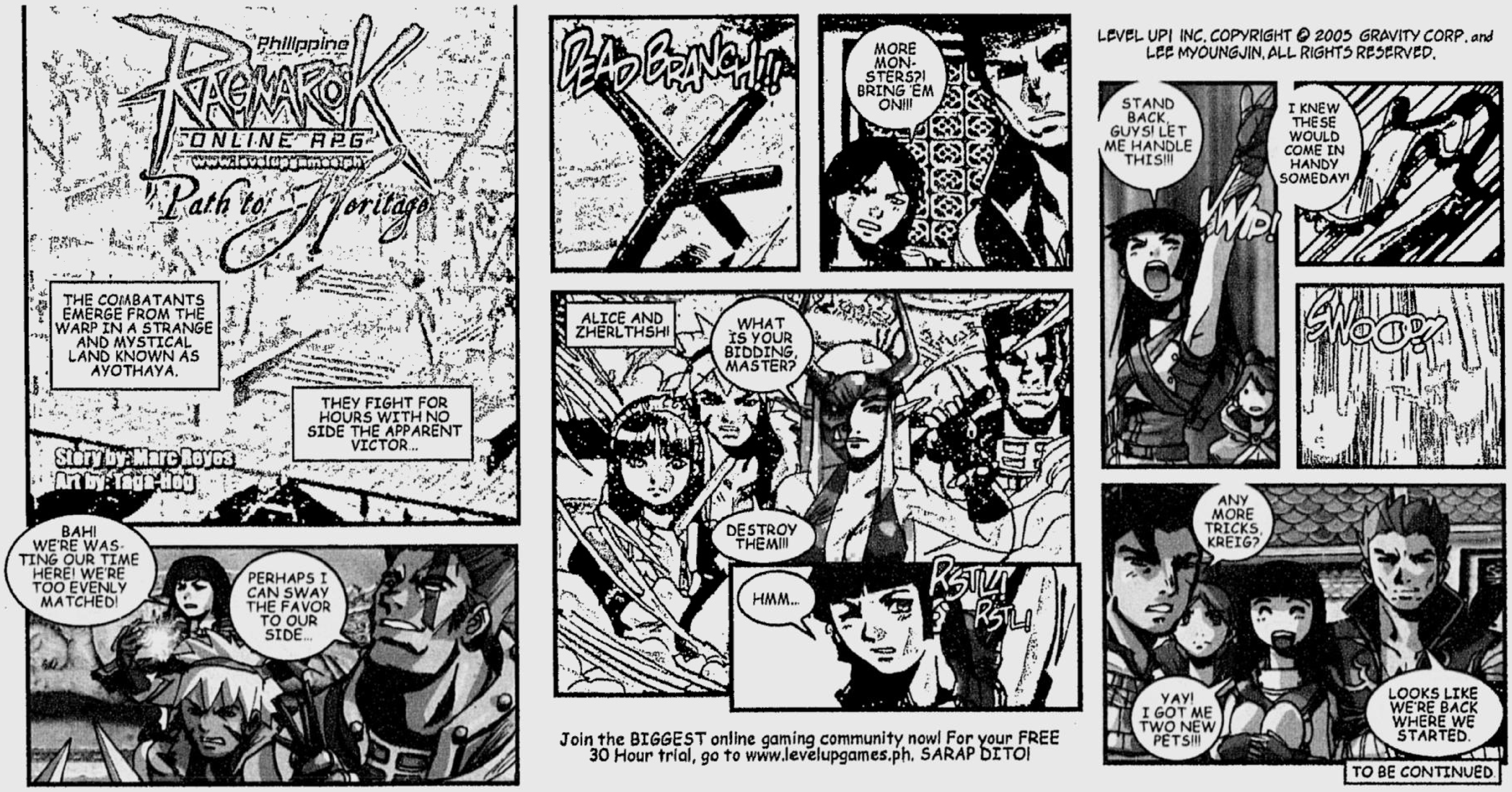
INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY MARC REYES & TAGA-ILOG


Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
Path to Heritage
THE COMBATANTS EMERGE FROM THE WARP IN A STRANGE AND MYSTICAL LAND KNOWN AS AYOTHAYA.
THEY FIGHT FOR HOURS WITH NO SIDE THE APPARENT VICTOR...
Story by: Marc Reyes
Art by: Taga-Ilog
BAH! WE'RE WASTING OUR TIME HERE! WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED!
PERHAPS I CAN SWAY THE FAVOR TO OUR SIDE...
DEAD BRANCH!!!
MORE MONSTERS?! BRING 'EM ON!!!
ALICE AND ZHERLTHSH!
WHAT IS YOUR BIDDING, MASTER?
DESTROY THEM!!!
HMM...
RSTLI! RSTLI
STAND BACK, GUYS! LET ME HANDLE THIS!!!
WIP!
I KNEW THESE WOULD COME IN HANDY SOMEDAY!
SWOOP!
ANY MORE TRICKS, KREIG?
YAY! I GOT ME TWO NEW PETS!!!
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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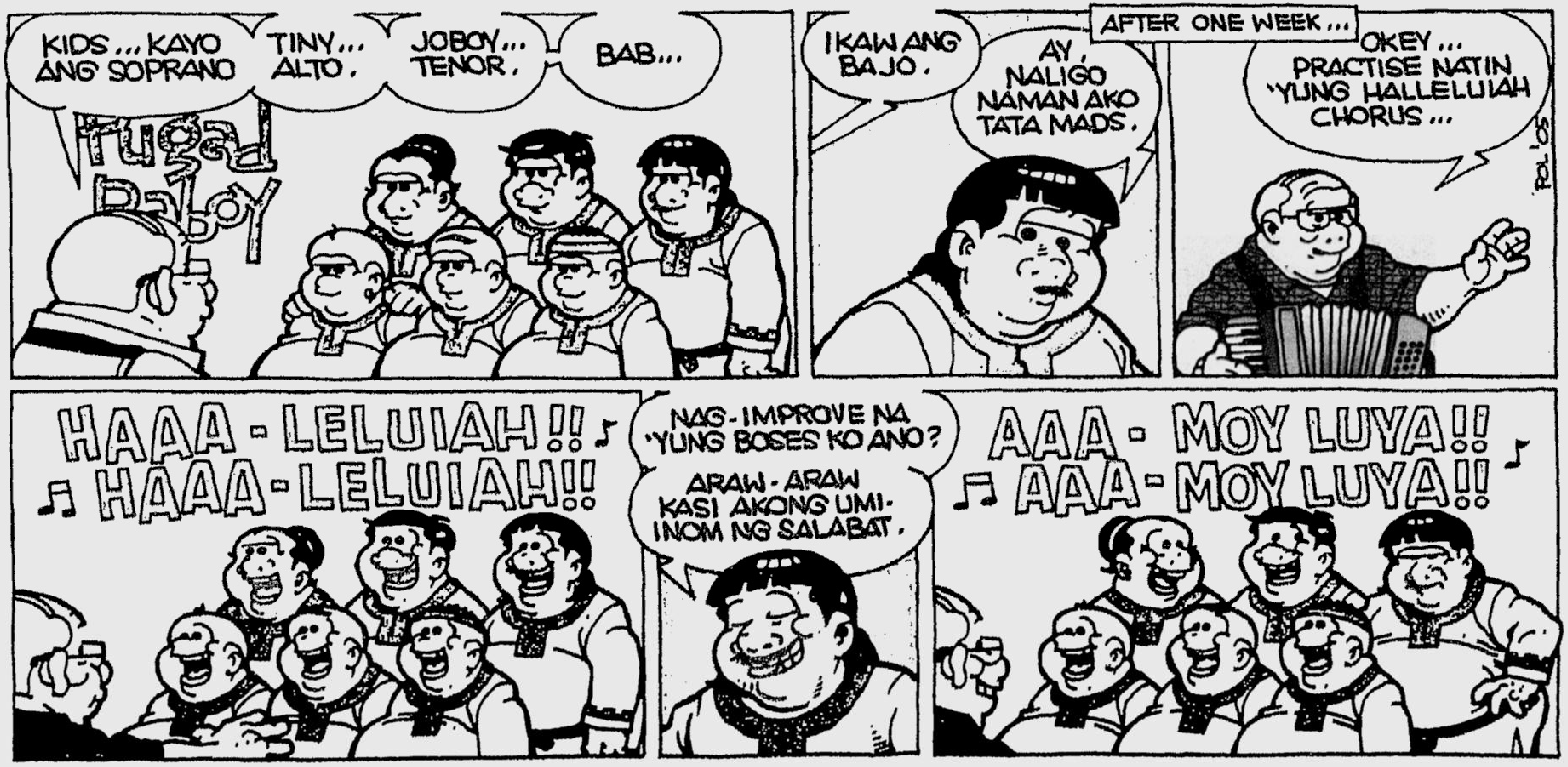
Join the BIGGEST online gaming community now! For your FREE 30 Hour trial, go to www.levelupgames.ph. SARAP DITO!

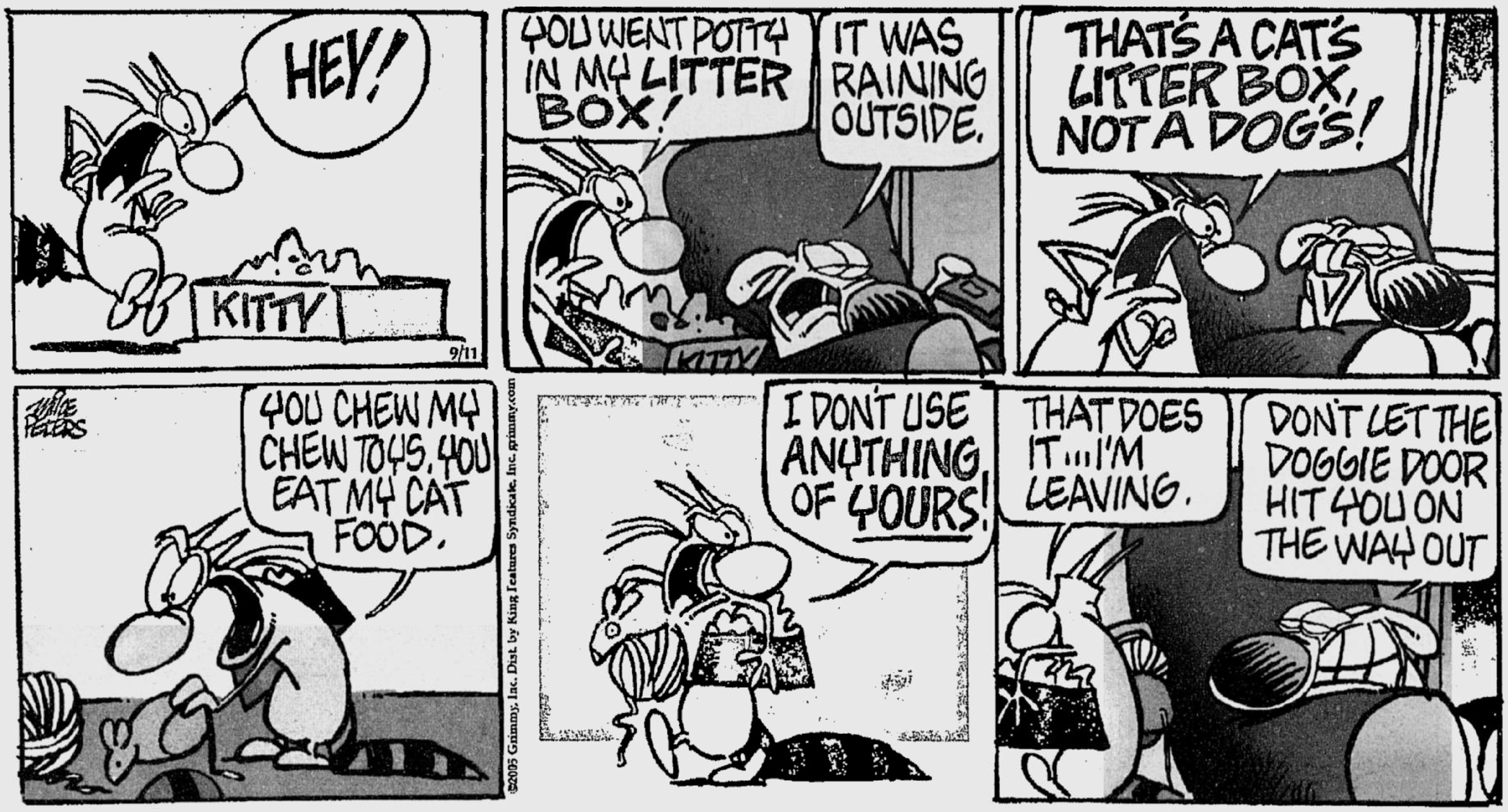
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
KIDS ... KAYO ANG SOPRANO
TINY... ALTO.
JOBOY... TENOR.
BAB...
IKAW ANG BAJO.
AY, NALIGO NAMAN AKO TATA MADS.
AFTER ONE WEEK...
OKEY... PRACTISE NATIN 'YUNG HALLELUIAH CHORUS...
POL '05
HAAA - LELUIAH!! HAAA-LELUIAH!!
NAG-IMPROVE NA 'YUNG BOSES KO ANO?
ARAW-ARAW KASI AKONG UMI-INOM NG SALABAT.
AAA - MOY LUYA!! AAA-MOY LUYA!!

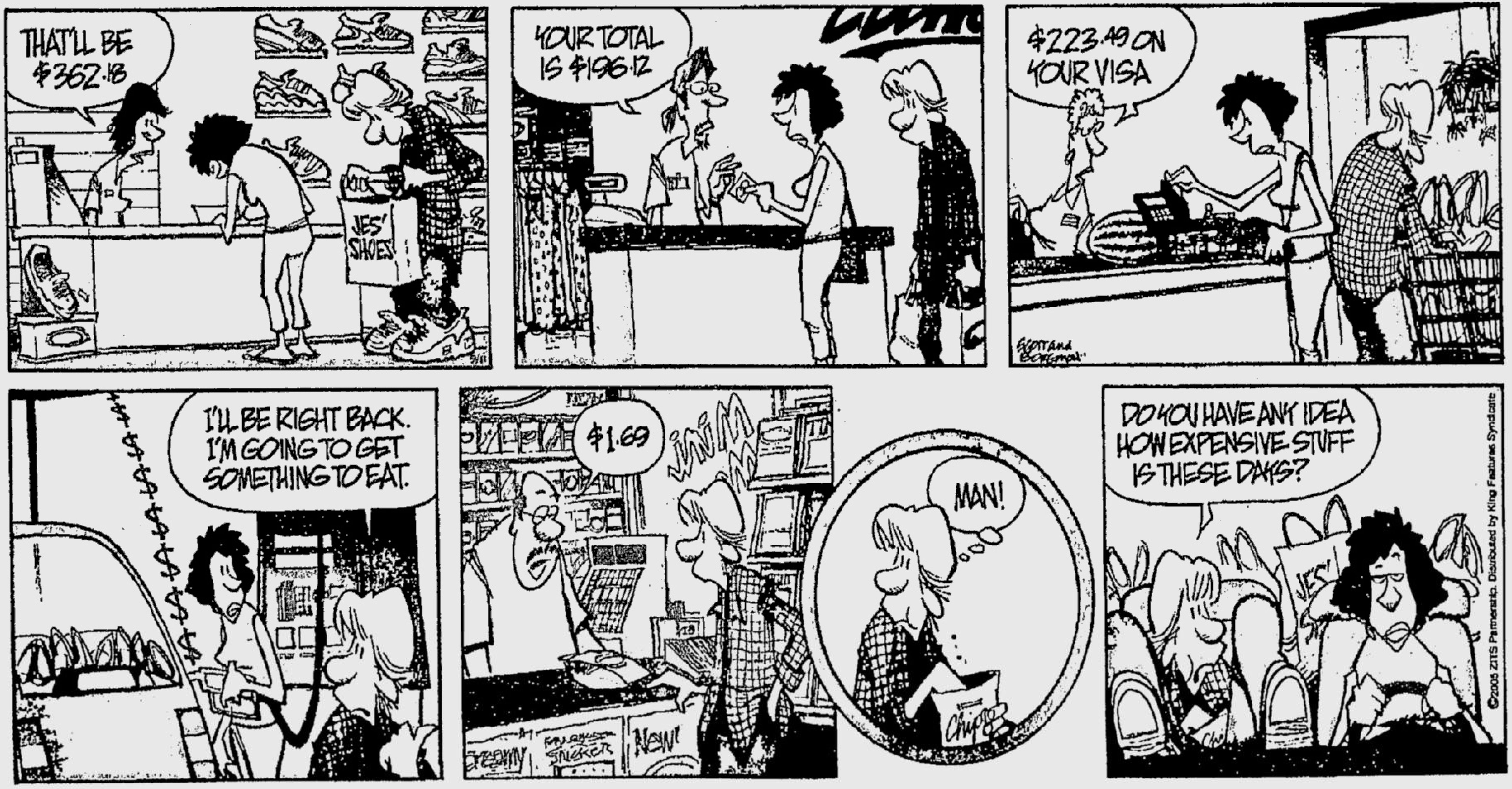
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HEY!
KITTY
9/11
YOU WENT POTTY IN MY LITTER BOX!
IT WAS RAINING OUTSIDE.
KITTY
THAT'S A CAT'S LITTER BOX, NOT A DOG'S!
MIKE PETERS
YOU CHEW MY CHEW TOYS, YOU EAT MY CAT FOOD.
©2005 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com
I DON'T USE ANYTHING OF YOURS!
THAT DOES IT... I'M LEAVING.
DON'T LET THE DOGGIE DOOR HIT YOU ON THE WAY OUT

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

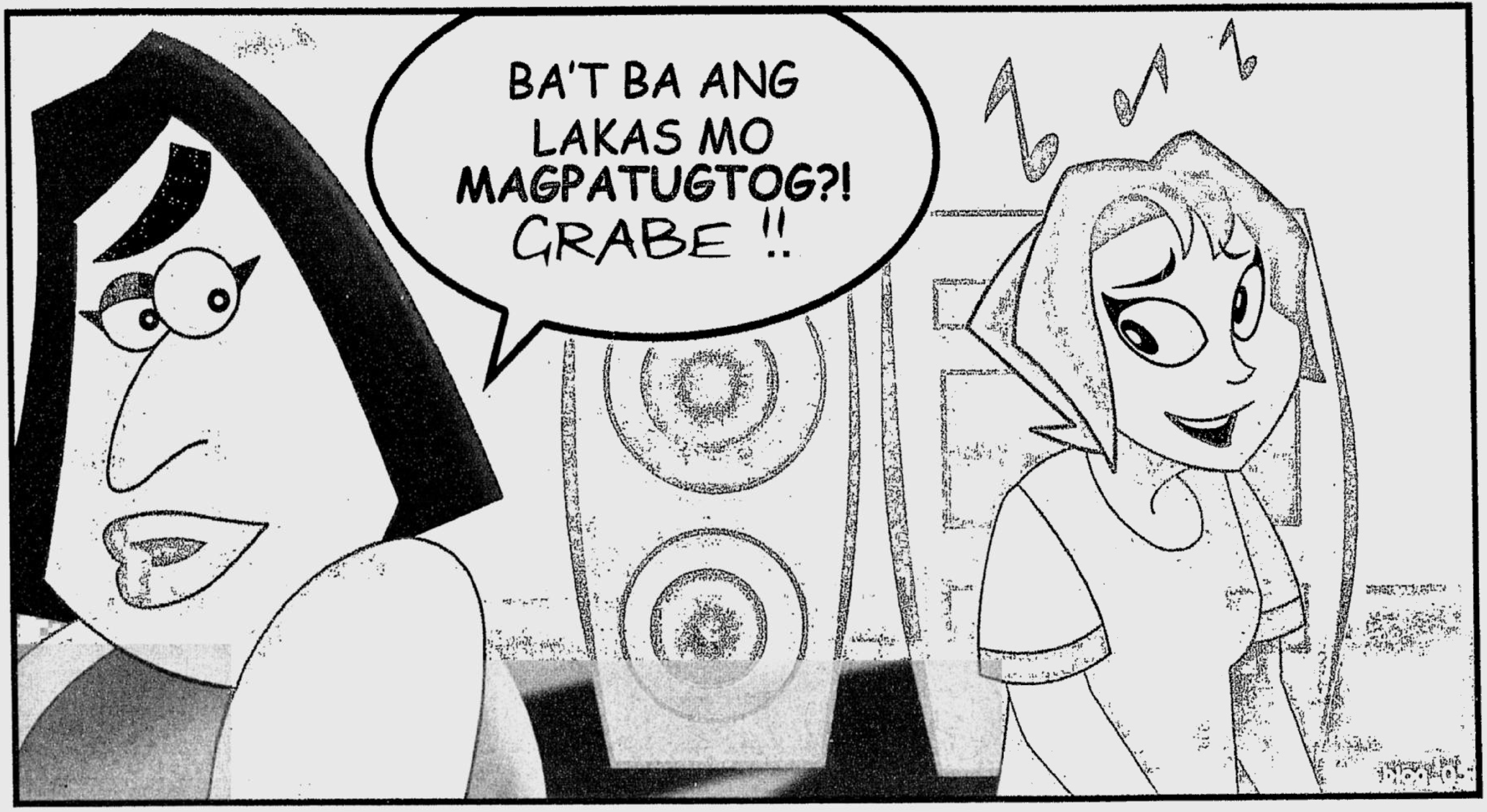

THAT'LL BE $362.18
JES' SHOES
YOUR TOTAL IS $196.12
$223.49 ON YOUR VISA
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING TO EAT.
$ $ $ $ $ $ $ $ $
$1.69
NEW!
MAN!
Chips
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW EXPENSIVE STUFF IS THESE DAYS?
JES'
©2005 ZITS Partnership. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

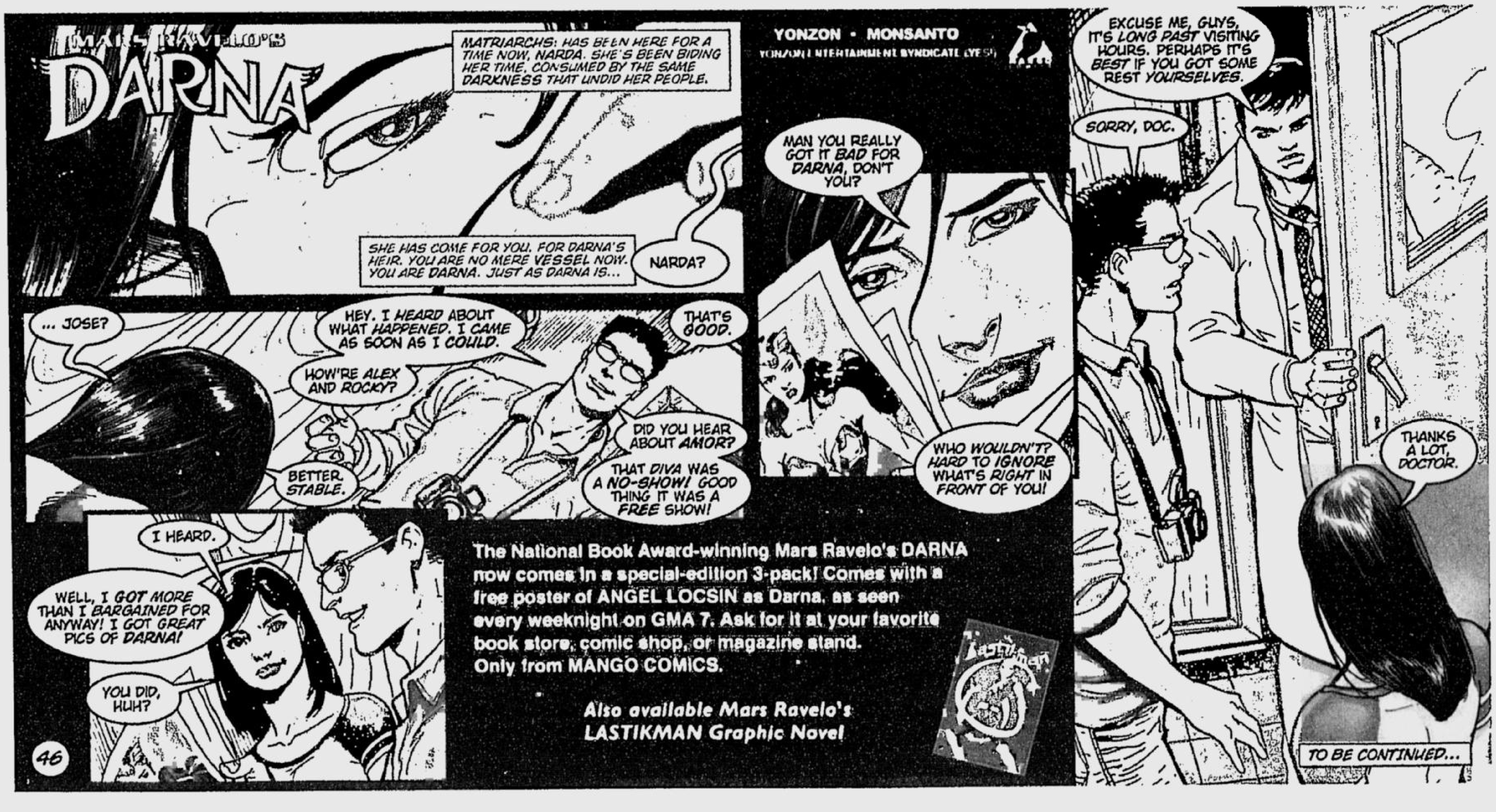
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


BA'T BA ANG LAKAS MO MAGPATUGTOG?! GRABE !!

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S DARNA
MATRIARCHS: HAS BEEN HERE FOR A TIME NOW, NARDA. SHE'S BEEN BIDING HER TIME, CONSUMED BY THE SAME DARKNESS THAT UNDID HER PEOPLE.
SHE HAS COME FOR YOU. FOR DARNA'S HEIR. YOU ARE NO MERE VESSEL NOW. YOU ARE DARNA. JUST AS DARNA IS...
NARDA?
... JOSE?
HEY. I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. I CAME AS SOON AS I COULD.
HOW'RE ALEX AND ROCKY?
THAT'S GOOD.
BETTER. STABLE.
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT AMOR?
THAT DIVA WAS A NO-SHOW! GOOD THING IT WAS A FREE SHOW!
I HEARD.
WELL, I GOT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR ANYWAY! I GOT GREAT PICS OF DARNA!
YOU DID, HUH?
46
YONZON · MONSANTO
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
MAN YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD FOR DARNA, DON'T YOU?
WHO WOULDN'T? HARD TO IGNORE WHAT'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU!
EXCUSE ME, GUYS, IT'S LONG PAST VISITING HOURS. PERHAPS IT'S BEST IF YOU GOT SOME REST YOURSELVES.
SORRY, DOC.
THANKS A LOT, DOCTOR.
TO BE CONTINUED...

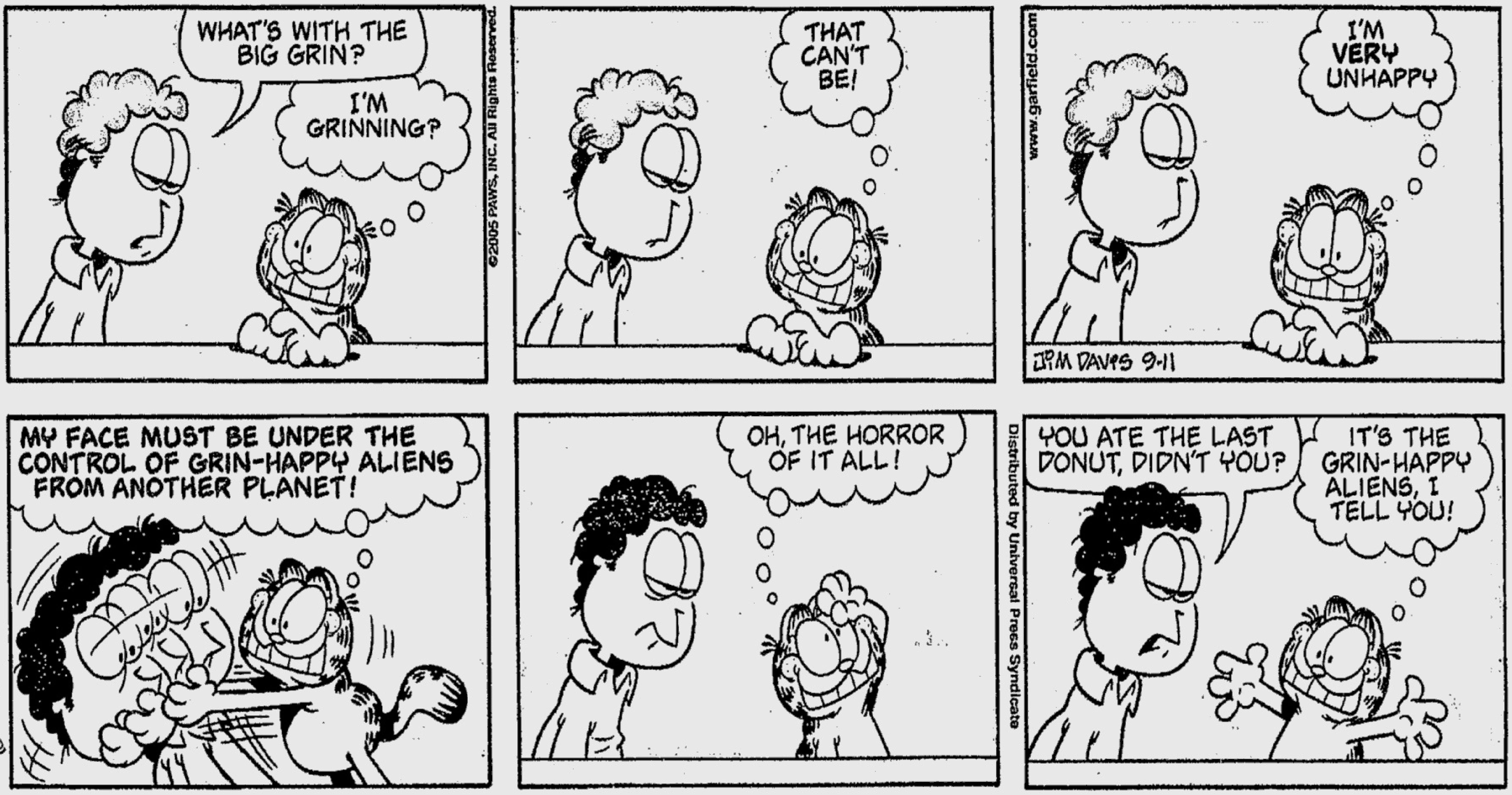
The National Book Award-winning Mars Ravelo's DARNA now comes in a special-edition 3-pack! Comes with a free poster of ANGEL LOCSIN as Darna, as seen every weeknight on GMA 7. Ask for it at your favorite book store, comic shop, or magazine stand. Only from MANGO COMICS.

Also available Mars Ravelo's LASTIKMAN Graphic Novel

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

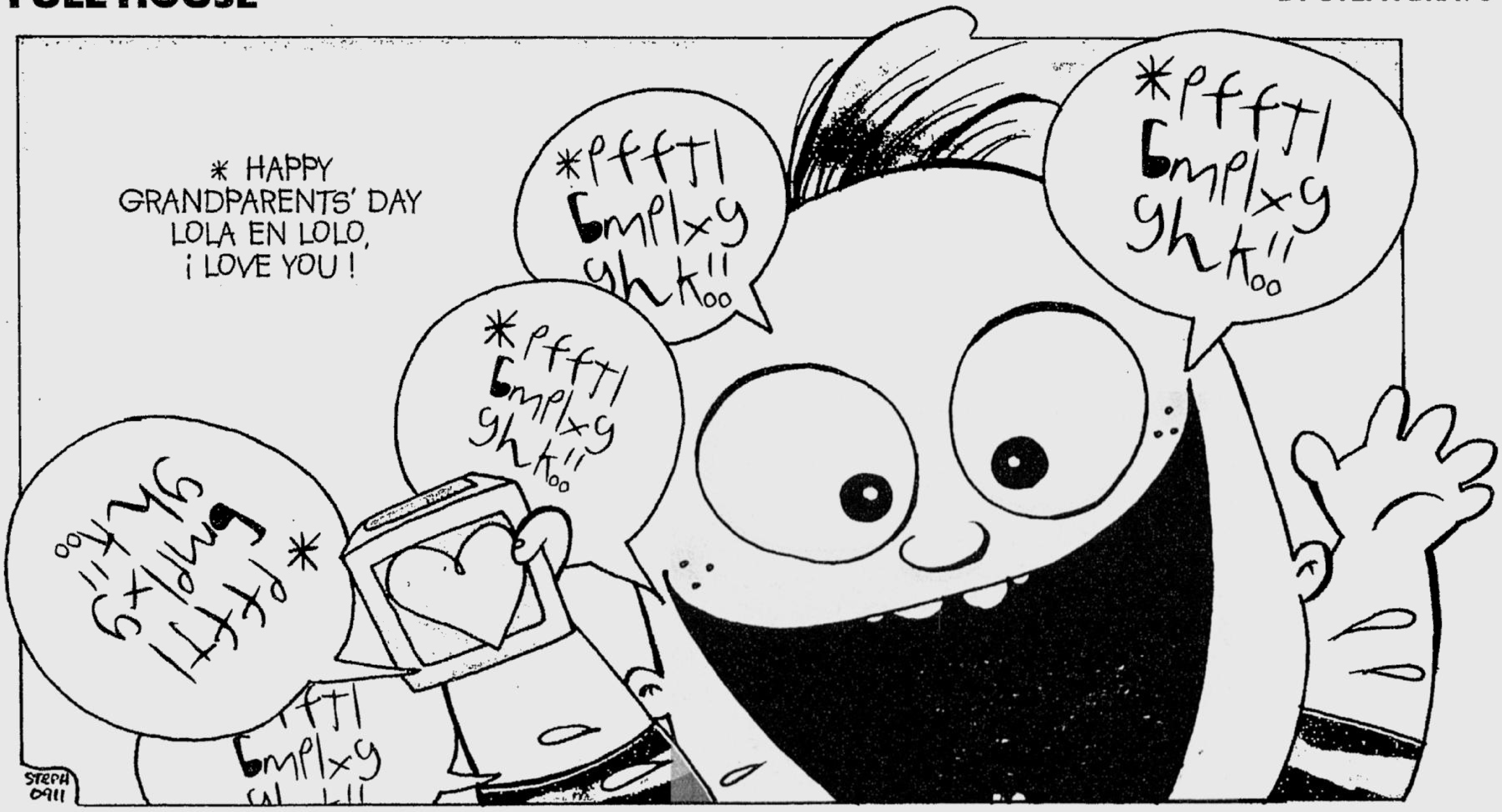
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WHAT'S WITH THE BIG GRIN?
I'M GRINNING?
©2005 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
THAT CAN'T BE!
www.garfield.com
I'M VERY UNHAPPY
JIM DAVIS 9-11
MY FACE MUST BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF GRIN-HAPPY ALIENS FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
OH, THE HORROR OF IT ALL!
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
YOU ATE THE LAST DONUT, DIDN'T YOU?
IT'S THE GRIN-HAPPY ALIENS, I TELL YOU!

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


* HAPPY GRANDPARENTS' DAY LOLA EN LOLO, ¡ LOVE YOU !
*pfftl bmplxg ghk!!oo
*pfftl bmplxg ghk!!oo
*pfftl bmplxg ghk!!oo
*pfftl bmplxg ghk!!oo
pfftl bmplxg
STEPH 0911

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

Basketball coach Chot Reyes will talk about family living as a form of team-building in a parenting convention

THE THIRD Philippine Parenting Convention organizers and speakers: Chot Reyes, Ardy Abello, Vera Abello, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Anthony Pangilinan, Dr. Grace Koo, professor Hercules Callanta and Pastor Gus Lising.

ROGER CARPIO

Meet the parents

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

"A FAMILY has to be a team," says Chot Reyes, a father and national basketball team coach. "You see, not because you share the same last name and you live together under the same roof [it] means your family is considered a team or at least operates like a team."

Looking around him, Reyes observes families these days have taken for granted the importance of being together and working as a team. It's not even enough that members of the family see each other every day or eat together or sleep together.

"I hear parents complain about their children not helping even in simple house chores or that their eldest son cannot be trusted with the younger siblings or their girls not following instructions. Parents think that once they give order in the house their children will automatically follow. It's not how it should be," says the multi-titled Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) coach and a father of three boys and a girl.

So, how does a family become a team?

"It's essential to know that we have different personalities. We may have the same parents, same blood but different identities. Same goes with children. Parents must realize their children are separate beings from them. Therefore, understanding, communication and listening play a big role in transforming a family into a team," Reyes explains.

Parenting meeting

Reyes is just one of the reputable speakers who will talk to parents about "Transforming A Family Into A Team" at the ongoing Philippine Parenting Convention (PPC), which has the theme, "Equipping Parents: Body, Mind, Heart and Soul." Organized by the Parenting Company led by husband-and-wife team Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan, the convention is now on its third year with the vision of empowering parents as they raise the next generation.

Aiming to bring parenting as a national concern, the 3rd PPC is now a nationwide event. Parent advocates, leaders, educators and celebrities share significant, inspiring and in-depth knowledge of effective parenting in a series of training programs and seminars on Sept. 17 at the SBC Party Venue in Cagayan de Oro and Oct. 1 at the Ateneo de Manila, Katipunan, QC.

Attendance fee in Cagayan de Oro is P600; Manila, P1,500. Proceeds of the PPC will go to the Master's Lighthouse Foundation.

Among the speakers are broadcaster, trainer and Family Commission chair Pastor Clem Guillermo; noted writer and Most Outstanding Teacher of 2000 Dr. Grace Koo; honorary board member of the Association for Childhood Education International Dr. Yoyit Roldan; motivational speaker and Board of Advisors of the Society of Educators for a Better Philippines Francis Kong; and celebrity mom Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan.

Teamwork

"I think a lot of parents don't have a faintest clue or idea about how to build teams. And that's where I try to come in," says Reyes. "I am not licensed with any thing. I just tell stories and speak from experience. I've always said as a basketball coach, I'm not the brightest or the most technically competent basketball coach there is, but there are two things I know to do very well. That is, how to motivate my people and how to build teams."

Reyes observes some parents fall into the trap of trying to mold their children into exact images of themselves, but children need to be allowed to have their own personalities and identities. Children have their own unique talents and strengths, so it's valuable to listen to children when they tell their interests, their hopes and their fears. Parents are also encouraged to decide how they can best discipline their children, and to keep that plan consistent.

At the PPC, Reyes will also share tips on how to communicate with children and how to listen to them.

"That's the biggest problem that we, as parents, have, how to listen. Though no fault of parents, a lot of us do not have the skills to listen. We are just not equipped," he says.

Reyes will also emphasize on family teamwork.

"Have you ever come across a curriculum in college or any MBA (course) that's called Teamwork 101 or the Fundamentals of Team Building? We have never been taught how to build teams. It's been taken for granted in corporation and it's been taken for granted at home."

Reyes adds: "I think if we are able to teach parents how to create teams and if we are able to have really good effective teams in the family then it's going to have an immeasurable effect. In short, it really has to start from the parents."

Call 4354281 or 4340139. E-mail ppc_secretariat@yahoo.com or visit www.theparentingcompany.com

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Cool phone deals for the young

GLOBE Telecom Business Centers are giving the hip, young crowd a chance to grab two cool camera phones at very affordable prices.

The Nokia 6020 is available in G Plan and the Nokia 6610i is available in both G Plan and Prepaid.

The Nokia camera phones let users share special moments with their friends through Globe's MMS (multi-media messaging service). The Nokia 6020 also has a video recorder and player, while the Nokia 6610i comes with a built-in FM radio.

These camera phones are available at any Globe Center with its best deals ever. The Nokia 6610i Prepaid Phonekit is available for P6,390.

Deals for the two handsets are tailor-fit for the youth as they do not put too much pressure on the pocket.

Globe also throws in a nice surprise. Those availing of the deal can get a stylish Human sling bag absolutely free. Just join Gentext and download the Black Eyed Peas' latest hit "Don't Phunk With My Heart" to get the premium item.

The promo runs until Sept. 16. Visit the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center.

Kids invited to speak up and be heard

NICKELODEON is inviting participants in its "Hear My Voice" contest.

Entries should be submitted by Sept. 25 to get the chance to be displayed at the United Nations building in New York City.

Through the contest, kids can write their aspirations through essays, poems and artworks and tell everyone how they want the world to be in 2015.

Theme of the competition is "Aspirations."

The best entry will be sent to New York to be displayed at the United Nations building with other entries from kids around the world.

In 2002, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan launched a Millennium project where 189 heads of state around the globe promised to make the world a better place for all kids and their families by 2015.

Nickelodeon joined forces with the UN to promote Millennium Development goals through "Nick 2015," a campaign to raise awareness among children to make the world a better place by 2015.

Children are encouraged to learn more about social issues and get involved by posting their petition and support online on www.nick2015.com. Their petitions will be presented to world leaders by the UN Millennium Campaign in September.

Entries should be sent to Nick 2015 "Hear My Voice" Contest, The Music Source, Inc. Unit C, The Fort Entertainment Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila. Visit www.nicksplat.com

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A PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

VERITAS ET LUMEN

The Beacon School Scholarship Programme
2006-2007 School Year

The Beacon School is offering two full scholarships, for entry to Grade Six for the 2006-2007 school year.

Successful candidates will need to demonstrate a strong academic background, as well as the ability to think critically and creatively. The ability to make a positive contribution to the Beacon School community is also required. The family of the successful candidate will be required to demonstrate a need for financial assistance.

Following receipt of applications, candidates will be shortlisted and a number will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee, and by school academic personnel. This will include academic testing. As well, parents of shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee.

Applications, including a letter of application, a brief resume, and latest school academic records, should be sent, in an envelope marked " Scholarship Application", to: The Headmaster, The Beacon School, PCPD Building, 2332 Chino Roces Avenue Extension, Taguig.

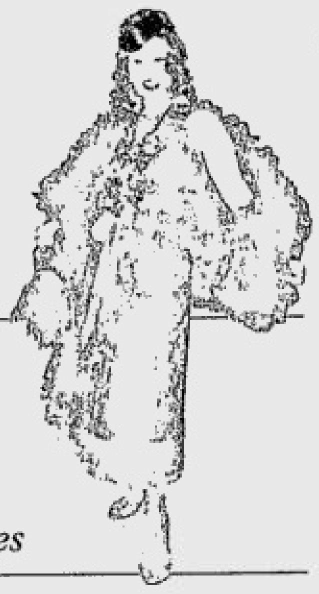
Applications will close at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday 30 September 2005.

Sunday LifeStyle

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FAMOUS gang with Manila Pavilion GM Rexlon Gatchalian

Back to good, old denims



TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

MIRACULOUSLY, MY EMBELLISHED pre-pregnancy **Rajo Laurel** jeans finally fit me again. Well, I should say they "just barely" fit, with me having to unlatch the buttons and zipper to get the blood circulation back in my legs. My "I just gave birth" excuse is wearing thin and I wonder how long I can go on saying that. Is there an expiration date to that excuse?

Thank God the options for wearable jeans have just expanded, pun intended, with the opening of MixeDenim, the jeans bar section of Mix in Greenbelt. Twelve stylish jeans brands like Habitual, Ernest Sewn, 7 Jeans and Notify are on display in a funky, Western metal bar ready to be served. You can almost get drunk just by mixing, such as an Antik Denim pair with all its embellishments paired with embroidered Duarte jeans.

Nothing comes between me and my jeans, except post-natal fat

In an ultra-cool cocktail lounge-style launch, Mix owners **Ricco** and **Tina Ocampo** brought the hippest crowd to their shop to check out the jeans while listening to a cocktail blend of live Philharmonic music and **Rod Stewart**. Everyone enjoyed the pass-around food from Kitchen though I missed out on the recently infamous caviar pie.

Oshima book

In a small but impressionable way of uplifting the deteriorated image of our country, a new, visually graphic photography book by **Neil Oshima**, called "Philippinas In Cognitas," was launched that same night. Known for his dramatic and extraordinary angles, this Japanese photographer, married to Lumiere Restaurant owner **Susan**, has produced several books in the past showcasing the beauty of the Philippines, whether it is in our mountains or markets.

With Department of Trade and Industry funding, the book features landscapes, still lifes and portraits all depicting how beautiful our country really is. Having just arrived from Amanpulo early last week, I embraced those images first hand and got more appreciative of being Pinoy. We should really focus on the more positive things in life and enhance these to the fullest.

French fashion

Fashion took a French twist last week with "Traits Trés Mode," the successful fashion event of Alliance Française de Manille (AFM). Its directors, **Philippe Normand** and **Lulu Tan-Gan**, coupled an illustration-inspired fashion show of young designers with a traveling exhibit showcasing a diverse group of 15 internationally renowned fashion illustrators, graphic designers and animators.

This art exhibit has been displayed in the prestigious shop, Le Bon Marche, in Paris and at Christie's in Amsterdam. But the event here was just as spectacular because of the splendid production of director **Robbie Carmona** and his Saga Events, which created a visual explosion of interactive graphic displays integrated with live models pulsating to music.

Getting all the young designers to exhibit

BACK/ J2

MIX owers Tina and Ricco Ocampo

SEXY belly dancers JM Acosta, Happy David and teacher Ginajean Grey

ALLIANCE Française directors Lulu Tan-Gan, Tata Poblador and Deanna Ongpin

HOTEL guests Liza Ilarde, Rajo Laurel and Donna Cuna

CRISTIN Felner, Mia Borromeo and Sevrine Miailhe

MIXEDENIM launch at Mix shop

sun CELLULAR PREPAID

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sun CELLULAR PREPAID

NEW PARENTS Leon Araneta ana Karla Delgado

YOGA buddy Jerome Tan and wife Reina

HONG KONG residents Michelle and Jim Jones

FE and Junie Rodriguez

HAPPY shoppers Melissa Martel and Anna Angara

EDNA Chua and Ingrid Chua-Go

Back to good, old denims

TALENTED beauties Bubbles Paraiso and Zsa Zsa Padilla

NEW designer Louis Claparols and Bobby Carlos

HIP COUPLE Tootie and Norman Crisologo

COOL couple Hindy and Gippy Tantoco

From page J1

their wares, with fun accessories provided by **Happy David** and great shoes modeled by pretty **Nicolette Bell,** automatically creates a dynamic and energetic atmosphere. The evening presented the next wave of **Inno Sottos** with no restrictions on concept and color. The fashion world has so much to look forward to with the likes of **Kate Torralba, Louis Claparols, Tippi Ocampo** and **Ivarluski Aseron** coming up. I can just imagine my little **Annika** in an **Ignacio Loyola** puff outfit years from now.

In its third year of successfully converging art and fashion to a high form of image art, the AFM program concluded with a gyrating belly dance courtesy of **Ginajane Grey.** Now that I can fit into jeans, it won't be long before belly costumes become wearable, too!

Fashion show for charity

For my birthday next week, I decided to host a for-charity kids' fashion show and art auction, for the benefit of the Assumption Mission Schools scattered around the Philippines. Together with my high-school batch mates, we are raising funds for these schools that provide Christian education to the less fortunate as well as enrich lives by imparting immeasurable knowledge and skills for a better future.

With the support of all my family and just-too-many-to-mention friends, I am so overwhelmed with the outpouring of solicited gift certificates and donated gifts—ranging from Summit magazines, Fruits and Passion goods, Gillette products to Frenzy condoms, etc. etc. The kind support, especially from **Margaret Gaisano-Ang** of Metro Market! Market! is truly awesome.

There has been an invasion of investment in Manila from the south, starting with Metro Gaisano. Their impressive supermarket has become my favorite because of their extensive line of cereals, laundry detergent and my hubby **Dennis'** favorite Charmin toilet paper. Their brightly lit, wide aisles make shopping an enjoyable experience. Though I am not really aware of the general prices, they tell me their items are very competitive and often cheaper.

Pavilion restos

The Waterfront Hotel Group, which runs many hotels in the south, is now behind the Manila Pavilion Hotel in Manila. Manila Pavilion president **Rexlon Gatchalian** unveiled the restaurant outlets with special guest **Zsa Zsa Padilla.** When the hotel used to be known as the former Manila Hilton, I remember going there to watch my grandaunt **Conching Sunico** orchestrate her Karilagan fashion shows with the top models of that decade, like **Melanie Marquez** and **Bessie Badilla.** At the opening, it was nice to see some of the former employees of the Hilton still around.

AFM Board of Directors Bernard Sim and Markus Ruckstuhl

The new Manila Pavilion has been transformed to an ultra-sleek hotel with state-of-the-art amenities. And now that I am older, I can even try my luck in the casino next door. It's tempting to try and double the money I collect from my birthday charity event, though since I am lucky in love, I will just avoid the Black Jack tables.

As I turn another year wiser and more motherly with baby **Athena** in tow, I realize that we all have so much to share even if it seems too minuscule in detail. And people genuinely care and will gladly do their share to help. It is such a wonderful feeling when you know you have positively touched another person.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

CREATIVE designer Randy Ortiz with his male models

STYLE setters Leica Carpo, Sigalit Djemal and Ciara Marasigan

MANILA Pavilion executives Tess Samaniego, Sea Princess, Joey Bernardino and Norma Azares

MANILA Pavilion Hotel owner William Gatchalian with wife Dee Hua

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Dominique James—Portrait and Nude Photography
Xander Angeles—Fashion Photography and Filmmaking
Jo Avila—Digital Darkroom Technique

Plus, an exhibit of the works of award-winning Iraq and Afghanistan war photographers **Aeron Favila** (AP), **Bullit Marquez** (AP), **Eric de Castro** (Reuters) and **Dennis Sabangan** (EPA).

Here are more reasons why you shouldn't miss Digital Weekend:
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Grandparents' Day

Benefits of senior citizens

IT COMES NATURAL FOR FILIPINOS to care for its elderly. It is a duty imbibed in their sensibilities by parents and elders since childhood. While families adapt to the needs of the old, the government also has a duty to ensure that they be given assistance and proper social services.

Discounts are not the only thing senior citizens are entitled to under the Expanded Senior Citizen's Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9257).

Although it is a great relief to avail themselves of discounts especially in purchases of medicines, they must also be aware of their other privileges under the law.

The Senior Citizen's ID, issued free of charge, is very important to benefit from these privileges. There is an Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (Osca) in every city or municipality. The City Social Welfare and Development Officer or the municipal social welfare and development officer shall assist the head of Osca in coordination with the Social Welfare and Development Office.

Among the most basic of the benefits granted to senior citizens is the 20-percent discount in establishment and services in private organizations. These include hotels, restaurants, recreation centers, theaters, moviehouses, concert halls, and other leisure and recreational events and medical, dental, diagnostic and laboratory services, fare for domestic air and sea travel.

With the rising cost of almost everything, it has become common for pharmacists to ask for a senior citizen's ID when purchasing medicine. The 20-percent discount is a huge relief for the elderly.

In government facilities, they offer free medical and dental service, diagnostic and laboratory fees like x-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests, in all government facilities. These are subject to the guidelines by the Department of Health in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp (Philhealth).

For some elderly who still wish to study they are also entitled to educational assistance be it undergraduate or vocational or technical education in both public and private schools through provision of scholarship, grants, financial aid subsidies and other incentives. But he or she must be able to meet minimum admission requirement.

And for those who still want to work and are still capable of maintaining a regular paying job, they shall be provided information and matching services to land a job.

The law states: "The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination with other government agencies such as, but not limited to, the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) and the Department and Trade and Industry (DTI), shall assess, design and implement training programs that will provide skills and welfare or livelihood support for senior citizens."

If an elderly is reintroduced and will be reconnected to his or her family after being discharged from a home or institution for the aged, he or she is entitled to an after-care and follow-up services. The senior citizens and their families are to be provided with counseling.

For the abandoned, neglected, unattached or homeless senior citizens and those incapable of self-care they shall have a "substitute family care" in the form of residential care/group homes.

It is better to inquire at Osca for a more comprehensive information of the benefits of a senior citizen.

Establishments covered by this Act are required to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of the right and privileges of senior citizens and to ensure that the provisions of this Act are fully implemented.

Source: Expanded Senior Citizen's Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9257).

Grandma and Grandpa get comfy with Dr. P

AS WE TAKE THE TIME TO REMEMBER AND honor Grandma and Grandpa on Grandparents' Day, it may also be a good opportunity to ask them about their health, their needs, and other matters that make their lives easier and more comfortable. And as the elderly are often plagued with problems concerning incontinence, this may be the perfect moment to introduce them to Dr. P.

Because Dr. P adult diapers are equipped with super absorbent pads that prevent leaks and maintain that all important dry feeling, as well as an antibiosis and deodorization layer that controls the growth of germs and neutralizes unpleasant odors, our elderly loved ones need not worry about the hassles that come with incontinence.

Dr. P comes in different variants: Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence. Exclusively distributed in the Philippines by JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, Dr. P adult diapers are available at all leading supermarkets, groceries and drug stores.

Dr. P comes in different variants: Basic for light incontinence, Standard for moderate incontinence, and Premium for heavy incontinence

Celebrate Grandparents Day at SM

ITS OUR TURN TO TREAT LOLO and Lola to a grand time at the SM Supermalls as it celebrates Grandparents Day on Sunday, Sept. 11.

A grand countdown is ahead in the Search for the Grandparents with Most Number of Grandchildren, now ongoing at all SM Supermalls in Metro Manila. Grand prizes worth P10,000 worth of gift certificates plus other special prizes await winners in each mall.

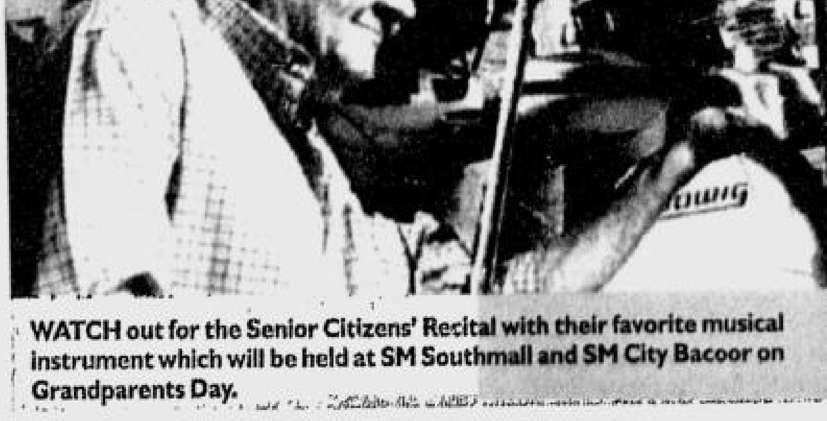
Seniors have a chance to show their stuff in a recital, which will be held at SM City Bacoor and SM Southmall on Grandparents Day. This special show will highlight the musical talents of seniors as they play the piano, violin, or saxophone.

Each of the provincial SM Supermalls have also prepared their special treat for Lolo and Lola. These include a mini concert by Claire de la Fuente at SM City Dasmariñas, a trip down memory lane with the Boyfriends at SM City Batangas and a Healthy Fair, Cooking Show, Talent Showcase and Makeover for Lolo and Lola at SM City Davao. All these events will take place on Grandparents Day. The concert starts at 4 p.m. and the Davao activities, the whole day.

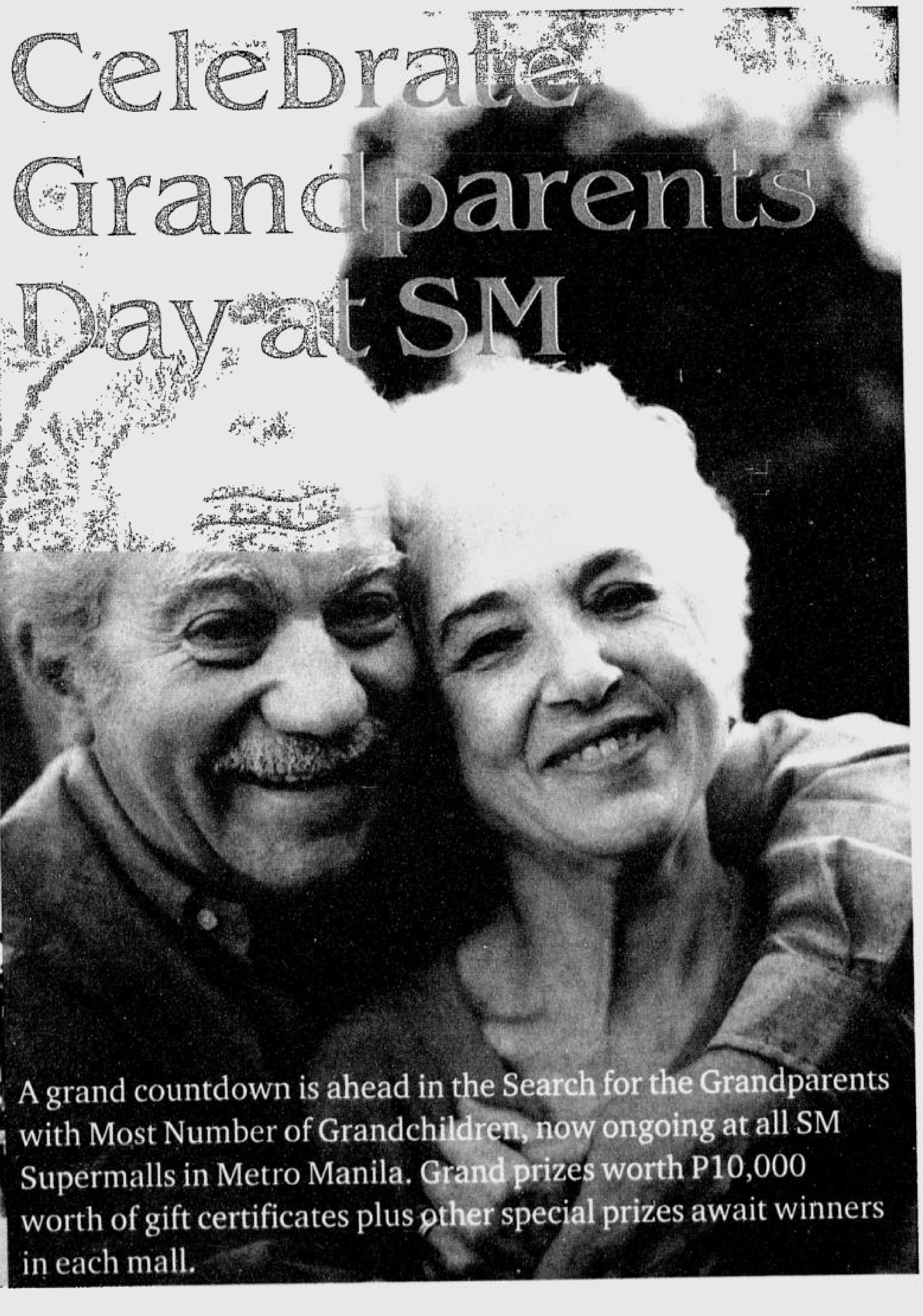
At SM City Cebu, every P300 purchase at participating tenants entitles grandparents to spa services at discounted rates at special spa centers, a free eye clinic check-up at participating optical shops, free dental clinics, as well as free medical samplings from selected drug stores in the mall. On Grandparents Day itself, students of the A Salonga Music School will serenade Lolo and Lola at 4 p.m. at the Entertainment Plaza.

Currently ongoing at SM City Iloilo is the Grandparents Medical Clinic, which offers a free check up and sampling of products. Not to be missed on Sept. 10 and 11 are at the At Home With Granny Ballroom Dancing Contest and Granny's Great Wall of Greetings, wherein everyone can greet Lolo and Lola with their messages of love.

Grandparents take centerstage on Sept. 10 at SM City Cagayan de Oro's Para Kay Lolo and Lola, which will feature them in ballroom dancing and *kundiman* performances in cooperation with the Social Security System. It's also a grand reunion on Grandparents Day for the 50s and 60s batch on Sept. 11. All these events will take place at the Atrium of SM City Cagayan de Oro.



WATCH out for the Senior Citizens' Recital with their favorite musical instrument which will be held at SM Southmall and SM City Bacoor on Grandparents Day.



A grand countdown is ahead in the Search for the Grandparents with Most Number of Grandchildren, now ongoing at all SM Supermalls in Metro Manila. Grand prizes worth P10,000 worth of gift certificates plus other special prizes await winners in each mall.

Take Lolo and Lola to SM and have a GRANDparents' Day WEEKEND!

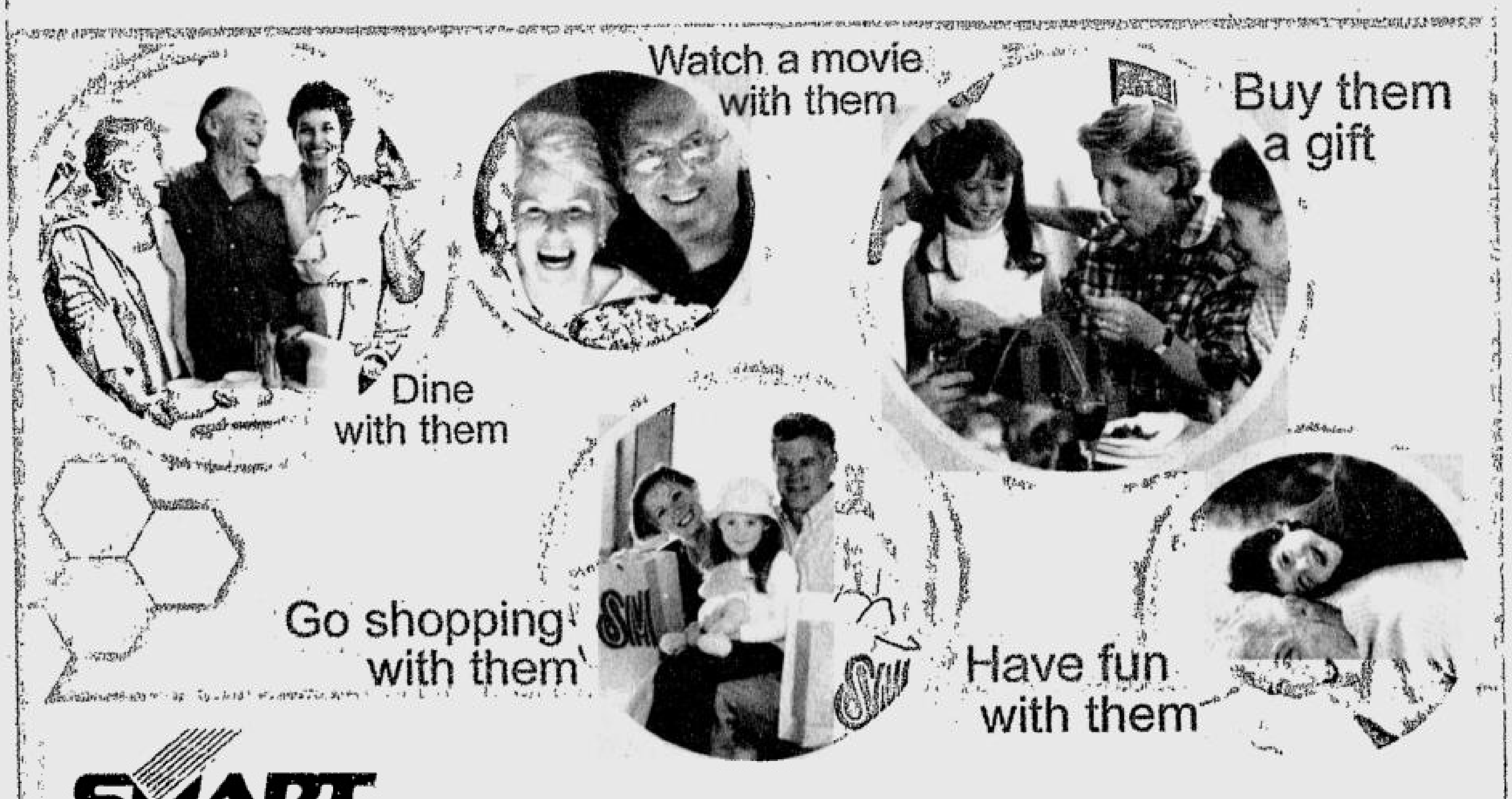
SUPERMALLS

Bring your grandparents to SM Supermalls today as we celebrate Grandparents' Day all over the country! Show Lolo and Lola how much we love and appreciate them by spending the day with our fun-filled activities lined up for the whole day.

Treat LOLO & LOLA on GRANDPARENTS' DAY at SM

on Sept. 11, 2005

SUPERMALLS



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SM City Dasmariñas • SM City Batangas • SM City Baguio • SM City Marilao • SM City Pampanga • SM City Lucena • SM City Cebu • SM City Davao • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cagayan de Oro

In SM Metro Manila Malls:

Witness the awarding of the winner in the **Search for Grandparents with the MOST Number of Grandchildren.**

Many grandparents with first degree grandchildren joined the Search and today each mall will announce the winning Lolo and Lola! A grand prize of P10,000 worth of SM Gift Cheques will be given away per mall. Whether it is fifteen, thirty-five or forty-nine grandchildren, the outcome will be known today in each SM Mall.

All entries' photos showing the grandparents with their grandchildren will be displayed until September 12, 2005 at the Activity Area of each mall courtesy of Picture City, Kameraworld, Photoline, YKL or Mitsubishi Film.

In SM Provincial Luzon Malls:

Check out the results of the **"Madami nAPO Kami" Paramihan ng Apo ni Lolo and Lola Contest** at SM City Lucena, SM City Pampanga, SM City Dasmariñas, and SM City Batangas. The winning grandparents get P10,000 worth of SM Gift Cheques and other exciting prizes.

Fall in love again as SM City Lucena turns Old Flames to Renewed Romance

Lolo and Lola Say Their "I Do's" Again
Grandparents celebrate their long years of marriage by renewing their wedding vows in the mall, coinciding with the Sunday Mass. The altar will be dressed up with flowers, flower girls and ring-bearers. A choir will sing beautiful love songs to add to the romantic ambience of the event at SM City Lucena.

Be proud of Lolo and Lola at SM City Pampanga

Musical Recitals Galore
Experience the musical talents of senior citizens as they perform on their favorite instruments (piano, violin, saxophone) in SM City Pampanga.

Be at SM City Batangas as we say Thank You to our Grandparents

Thanksgiving Mass
Join Batangueños as they celebrate a morning thanksgiving mass with elderly couples and their families, in coordination with Batangas City's DSWD headed by Ms. Mila Espanola and the Office of the Senior Citizens headed by Mr. Modesto Tingchuy.

Lunch for Grandparents
A free lunch in honor of registered grandparents will be tendered today courtesy of the Shepherd Catering at SM City Batangas.

Exciting Prizes and Giveaways
Today, the mall will announce the winners in the Oldest Lolo and Lola and Oldest Married Couple Contests. Prizes include two (2) overnight room accommodations at Ponte Fino Hotel, gift packs and cash prizes. Fifty registered couples will get souvenir photos from FujiFilm, discount coupons from David's Salon and other surprise gifts from SM Supermarket, Watson's and Fiesta Ilonggo at SM City Batangas.

In SM City Cebu, experience the following:

Ganda ni Lola!
Make your Lola feel kikay once more as you treat her for a makeover by professional artists! The top three Best Looking Lolas will win great prizes!

Grandparents' Day Special!
Having grandparents are great. Show them off and win groovy prizes.

Pampering Treats for Lolo and Lola
Remind Lolo and Lola that taking care of grandkids can be relaxing. Bring them to SM City Cebu for some pampering and a good time with the family.

Grandparents' Day Fair!
Free medical check-up for Lolo and Lola (Free blood sugar test, blood pressure test, eye check-up and bone density testing).

Go to SM City Iloilo, SM City Cagayan de Oro and SM City Davao and have lots of fun with Lolo and Lola:

- *Ganda ni Lola!*
- *Panalo si Lolo, Panalo si Lola*
- *Healthy and Happy*: Free medical check-up for Lolo and Lola (Free blood sugar test, blood pressure test, eye check-up and bone density testing)
- *La Bida Lolo, La Bida Lola!*
- *At Home with Granny Contest*

Visit the SM Supermall nearest you and have a memorable Grandparents' Day with the whole family!

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2005
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JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
PHILIPPINE DAILY
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We are accepting applications for the following positions:

- Customer Care and Sales Associates
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You need to have the following qualifications:

- Excellent English language skills
- Demonstrated abilities in customer contact, telemarketing, and/or sales experience
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"Great staff, great facilities, great incentives. I really enjoy working here." – Victor

Applicants may e-mail their resume to **servicecenterjobs@hsbc.com.ph** or mail it to either of our sites.
We will also accept walk-in applicants from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, Monday to Sunday.

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HSBC Electronic Data Processing (Philippines) Inc.
39th Floor PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street
Makati City 1226

Note: Walk-in applicants must bring a copy of their resume, one 2x2 picture and photocopies of their last two payslips.
Previous applicants need not apply.
HSBC is an equal opportunities employer.

HSBC

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TeleDevelopment Services, Inc. (TDS) is an international call center training, recruiting and consulting firm specializing in helping companies maximize opportunities in the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Contact Center industry.

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Do you have what it takes to be one?

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For applications, please email your resumes to:
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A leading livestock and poultry company in Pampanga, which is also engaged in meat shops retailing and meat processing, is looking for competitive and highly motivated individuals to fill up two key positions:

FINANCE MANAGER

Reporting directly to the GM, he/she will be tasked to oversee Finance and Accounting, Human Resources and Administration.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a CPA; preferably with Master's Degree in Business Administration, Economics, Finance, or Risk Management.
- Must have at least 10 years of relevant work experience and 5 or more years in a management capacity.
- Has strong moral integrity
- Has excellent communication, leadership and interpersonal skills
- Should be a problem solver
- With strong interest in livestock meat and meat processing

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Reporting directly to the GM, the Business Development Manager will be responsible in:

1. Providing analysis of the financial, operational, managerial and marketing problems of the business and recommending appropriate strategies for change.
2. Preparing strategic planning studies and related action plans designed to identify opportunities, barriers, and appropriate courses of action for business and infrastructure development.
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4. Identifying potential growth opportunities.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University graduate in Business, Marketing, Advertising, or Engineering preferably MBA.
- 10 years of broad-based work experience in sales/marketing and 5 or more years in a management capacity.
- Proven experience in developing and implementing marketing plans, feasibility studies, etc.
- Excellent communication, leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Strong business acumen; visionary and strategic and creative thinker.
- Team leader

Interested candidates may fax their application letters (with desired salary) and comprehensive resumé to Fax No (045) 961-1795 or email cheninalei@yahoo.com

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- No gimmicks: just straight forward assessment
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If you are a university graduate, between 26-47 years old, with work experience, why wait?

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If you think you have what it takes, then this is the call you need to answer!

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APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Between 20 - 25 years old, male or female
- Graduates of Communications, Management, Integrated Marketing Communication from leading universities
- Creative and equipped with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Hard-working, resourceful, organized and willing to learn

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK / SECRETARY

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

- Female 20 - 26 years old
- Graduate of 4-year Social Science Course
- With pleasing personality and good moral character
- Proficient in English and computer literate
- Hard-working, resourceful, organized and willing to learn

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumes, including position applied for, latest 2x2 photo and contact number, through the following:

Fax: **891-3431**
Email: **jobs@perceptions-inc.com**

Application documents should be sent in by 15 September 2005. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

DOME

Dome Café is a chain of outlets in the Philippines, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and Indonesia offering a wide array of fine foods and gourmet coffees. We set the pace for new standards of experience in operating cafés.

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Requirements:

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☑ HRM/HRD graduates preferred
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Interested parties may send their resumé to:

Dome Café
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to assist in events organizing/management

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- Able to make sales calls/presentations.
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- Job may require long hours during events or out-of-town assignments.
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CALL CENTER AGENT

- Must have excellent English conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Internet savvy

PROGRAMMER

- Must be proficient in PHP, Java, & MySQL
- Must be familiar in Symbian OS
- BS/MS in Computer Science or related field of study
- At least 1 year working experience in Software Development an advantage
- Must have strong Technical Skills, Inter-personal skills, and an ability to think out-of-the-box
- Fresh graduates are welcome

ACCOUNTANT

- Must be an accounting graduate and must have at least one year experience in the same field
- Female, 21 to 27 years old, must be a self-starter
- Basic computer knowledge
- Knowledge in Quicken or Quickbooks an advantage
- Must have strong organizational skills with emphasis on accuracy
- Fresh graduates are welcome

Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Taking the MRT, get off at Magallanes Station and go towards Mantrade
(5th bldg from EDSA) or SEND your resumes with ID picture to: newyorktelecon@yahoo.com
or MAIL TO: P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati

NOTICE OF VACANCY

ACCOUNT OFFICER

- Graduate of BS Economics/Business Management Administration or other related courses
- At least one year of experience in Micro-enterprise lending operation
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- Career Service Professional Eligibility
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to travel extensively in Luzon

Please send your resume at:

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Human Resource Department
17th Floor, 139 Corporate Center
139 Valero Street, Salcedo Village
Makati City

Teleperformance
GLOBAL CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

CALL CENTER AGENTS
(Part-time/Full time; Inbound/Outbound)
College level / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English ; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES
College graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related course; must have at least six (6) months experience as a TSR in a call center; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER
One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time; excellent verbal and written communication skills

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and have energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skills

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS
College graduate; preferrably with at least six (6) months as a call center agent or QA analyst in an offshore account

DATABASE PROGRAMMER
Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL,Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interface and database processing under Web and Client-Server environment

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS ASSOCIATES
EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALISTS
Graduate of a Bachelor's / College in Human Resource Management or its equivalent; good understanding of the Philippine Labor Laws; must have at least three (3) years experience in the same field; with outstanding written and verbal communication skills; with events organization skills; with pleasing personality

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEERS
Basic Network (Data) and Telecoms Troubleshooting; familiarity with the Avaya switch; knowledgeable in Windows and Linux Server; basic troubleshooting on workstation hardware; familiarity with different services such as Mail, NTP, FTP, DHCP, active directory both under Windows and Linux; minimum of one (1) year experience in related field

All positions require excellent communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

Hotline: (02) 632-9000 Ext 408, 409 & 410 — www.teleperformance.ph

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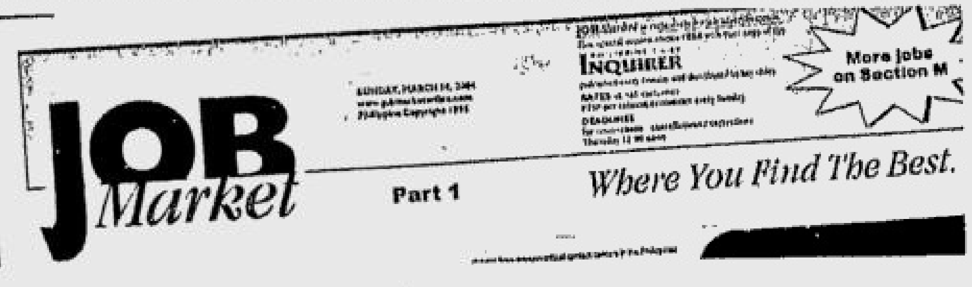

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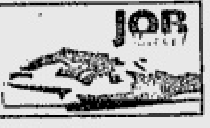

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

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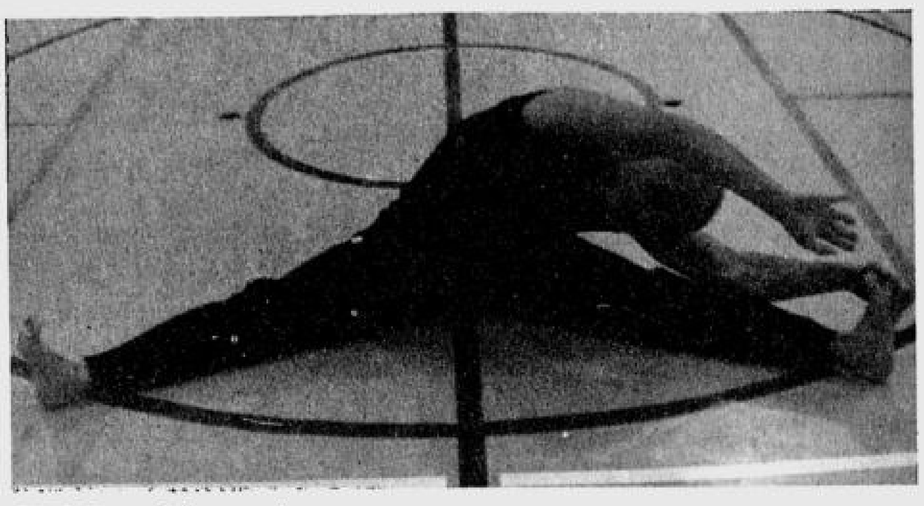
EXERCISING AT WORK

Work out to work better

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor



CHRIS Byrne doing stretches.

AS A WRITER, ONE OF MY FEARS is writer's block, especially when I'm two hours away from my deadline. I would hunch up close to the keyboard until my nose is almost touching the monitor and try to squeeze the words out of my head. Then, I would switch to another tactic: pulling my hair. Of course, these never work.

There was also a time when I would start working with a quiet pinch on my upper back. By the end of the day, the discomfort would progress to a numbing pain that would really interfere with my work.

My body was crying out and I could no longer deny it.

A brief and enlightening talk with health and fitness instructor Chris Byrne made me realize that I had ignored my body.

With the demands of work, I, like many working people, forgot that my body—my most important tool for work—needed maintenance. Maintaining the body means rest, proper diet and exercise. While rest and proper diet are easy to do, exercise is an activity often neglected by many busy working people. But if we want to increase performance at work and play, exercise should be a part of our routine.

Scheduling exercise

If you spend time defragging and disk cleaning your computers regularly, your body deserves just as much attention. Because physical exercise improves your mental and physical health, it will not only greatly affect the quality of your work, but also the quality of your life. By incorporating a daily fitness regimen into your busy schedule, you'll be surprised how your work performance will improve and how the day will stretch longer, filled with energy and enthusiasm while leaving you with more quality time after work to play.

For busy executives, the great dilemma is, how do you find the time? And when would be a good time? According to Chris Byrne, a Canadian-Filipino health and fitness instructor, there really is no such thing as a "good" time for exercise. He says it's really up to the individual. Find out when it will work best for you, then stick to it. "To develop stamina, one needs to be consistent," explains Byrne.

Byrne highly recommends mornings. "Some exercise in the mornings because the endorphins keep them happy all day long," he explains. According to Byrne, you'll be surprised how it picks up your day and keeps you going way after you've punched out of the office.

Start early. Wake up earlier than you normally do to jumpstart a busy day at work. If you're not a morning person, consider lunch breaks before heading out to the cafeteria.

Allot half of your break for exercise (15 to 30 minutes). "If part of your goal is to lose weight, the best time is before you eat. Exercise actually helps one eat less," explains the health and fitness instructor at the Family and Community Wellness Center in Canada.

Some people prefer evenings after work. When the clock hits five, some executives change into their shorts and head to the nearest badminton gym. This is fine too. Work with whatever is best for your schedule as long as you stick to it.

Benefits of stretching

Have you ever felt like you've had it for the day and realized that you weren't even halfway through it yet? Sometimes, the deadlines pile up and the phones are ringing off the hook that it gets mentally and physically taxing. Byrne has a simple remedy. Stand up and stretch. "Just a midday stretch would do wonders for one's body, mind and spirit," shares Byrne. "It is important for everyone to remain limber. It truly is the key to youth."

Byrne says that every joint and muscle in our body must be acknowledged. Stretching increases blood circulation, pulse rate and delivers more blood and nutrients to your muscles. It therefore improves flexibility, decreases muscle soreness and helps you relax. It is a must before and after exercise to prevent injuries and reduce sore or strained muscles.

A third dan black belt in tae kwon do and an instructor of the art, Byrne always incorporates stretching before and after class. Stretching is also highly recommended in the mornings. "First thing when we wake—stretch! This is what we as adults must reincorporate in our daily lives," stresses Byrne. He recommends to always stretch in a relaxed and controlled manner. Try to hold each stretch between 15 to 30 seconds. Avoid bouncing and make sure you do not stretch to the point of feeling pain or discomfort.

Stretching should feel good. Consider inner thigh and hamstring stretches. Toe touch, head roll, shoulder lift and side stretches can be done within your office cubicle. The last three can even be done in your chair behind your desk. But don't limit yourself; walk around. The change of scenery and breath of fresh air can do you a lot of good.

(To be continued next week.)

(E-mail feedback to candyvillanue va@pldtdsl.net.)

'Is it bad to be the office cheapskate?'

By Ernie O. Cecilia

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I AM A SECRETARY to the marketing director of a large multinational company. As such, I find myself in situations where I can help generate savings in many activities of the company.

Before my boss approves of our departmental expenses, I voluntarily screen the managers' recommendations. Several times, I was able to suggest cheaper alternatives that resulted in great savings for the company. Long before the call for energy conservation, I kept reminding our department to put off lights during break times or when not in use. I have also mastered recycling almost anything, including Christmas décor. This has not escaped the attention of my boss and I got commended for my attitude and contribution several times.

However, word got around and I am getting the reputation of being the office cheapskate. Some rumors could really get nasty—e.g., I am *sipsip*, I get rewards from alternative suppliers, etc. Of course, these are not true. I only want to help the company become more cost-effective. But sometimes, I am irritated when my officemates jokingly give me such names as *mura* or *sipsip*.

Is it bad to be an office cheapskate? How can I handle the ridicule I get from my office mates?

Cheapskate

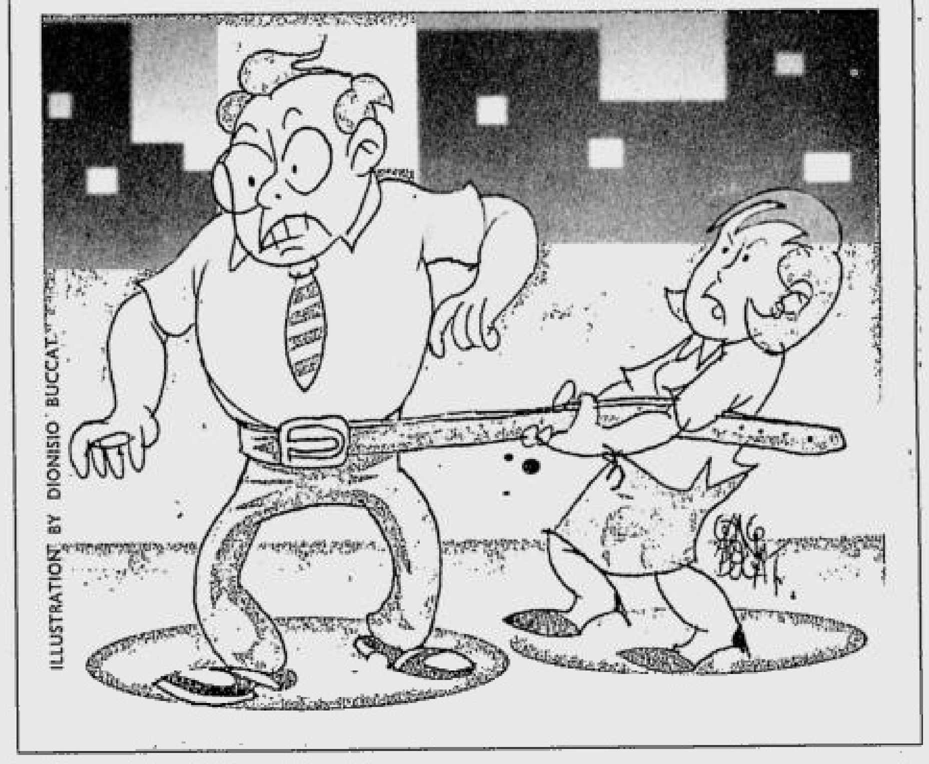
Saving is simply not a habit of the average Filipino. Many in the workforce reach the end of their careers or retirement without any savings. As a country, the Philippines has a very low savings rate, compared with more progressive countries. If people do not save for themselves, I guess they cannot be expected to save for others.

It is heartening to read your letter and note that some employees truly exhibit the value of *malasakit* (sacrifice). Now, more than ever, the country as a whole needs all the help it can get. Surely, every little way that Filipinos can help reduce the country's expenses will add up to major savings.

Cost saving not bad

Let me answer your question squarely. I believe that being an office "cheapskate" is not bad at all. In fact, people at work can create a major impact on the overall competitiveness of their companies and of the Philippines by being

'IS/P.9★



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From July 28 - 29, 2005 participants: "I highly recommend the seminar to my peers." "The training was very applicable to our day to day work, solving corporate problems." "All employees should attend this seminar." "The training was very innovative." "Self-empowering." "Congratulations for a job well done!"

From Sept. 1 - 2, 2005 participants: "This is a very good training program, an eye opener and encouragement." "Highly recommended to employees of all levels." "The workshop activities are stimulating & useful in triggering creativity." "I learned a lot from the seminar which are all applicable to any workplace."

Tower awards for 2006 launched

THE SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING Workers of the Republic, Tower Awards 2006, was formally launched by the Rotary Club of Manila and Metrobank Foundation Inc., together with the International Labour Organization , Chinese Filipino Business Club and Petron.

The award is given to blue-collar workers, men and women who stand out in agriculture, fishery and forestry, communications, community and social services, construction, mining and quarrying, power generation and distribution, transportation, manufacturing, tourism and other small-scale industries.

The launching ceremony was held last Thursday, Sept. 8 at the Makati Shangrila Hotel during the regular luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila.

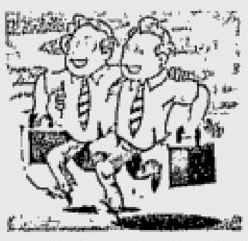
The winners of the said award will each receive P50,000 in cash, a Tower Awards Trophy, baccalaureate degree from the Technological University of the Philippines, and a scholarship from Central Colleges of the Philippines, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, STI College and other prominent colleges and universities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Nomination forms may be obtained from Rotary Club of Manila Secretariat Office, 2nd flr., Delgado Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area Manila or any Metrobank branch in the Philippines. Deadline for the submission of entries is on March 31, 2006.

For more information, contact Noel Gonzales at 527-1889, 527-5295, 527-1887, fax 527-1885 or e-mail rcmla@pacific. net.ph.

More articles

Reflections for the Working Soul
p.8★



'I am surviving multiple sclerosis with company's help'
p.8★

Working Wounded: How do you deal with a bully at work
p.9★

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ACCOUNTING AUDITOR – Accounting graduate preferably with CPA license; must have 5 years experience in the same capacity preferably from a manufacturing set-up; knowledgeable in all accounting system and procedures; must possess strong drive and analytical abilities; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

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QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER – University graduate; must have at least 6 years solid experience in the same capacity preferably from garment manufacturing set-up; familiar with international quality standard, i.e. AQL 2.5 standard. must posses strong leadership and training skills; work closely with Production Manager to improve the quality level of the products; familiar with quality requirements of U.S. and Europe buyers; excellent spoken and written English; computer literate. Less experience shall be considered as ASSISTANT QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER

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PURCHASING MANAGER – University/College graduate, knowledgeable in material sourcing and purchasing of general administrative items, such as office supplies, maintenance and carpentry materials and others production used materials in manufacturing preferably with 5 years work experience in the same experience in the same capacity; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ASST. PPC MANAGER – University/College graduate. At least 2 years experience in a garment manufacturing firm on Production Planning & Control; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

PPC COORDINATOR – University/College graduate preferably with experience in Production Planning; Can handle pressure; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR – University/College graduate preferably BS Accountancy; Must have at least 3 years experience in the same capacity; preferably from a manufacturing set-up; knowledgeable in all accounting procedures; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

ACCOUNTING CLERK – Accounting graduate preferably with experience as an Accounting Clerk; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR – University/College graduate preferably Industrial Engineering with production work experience; computer literate; can speak and write English or Chinese

SEWING SUPERVISOR/ASST. SEWING SUPERVISOR – University/College graduate. Must have technical knowledge in sewing operation; knowledgeable in sewing line management and balancing is a must; 4-5 years experience as Sewing Supervisor; good spoken and written English; computer literate.

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REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

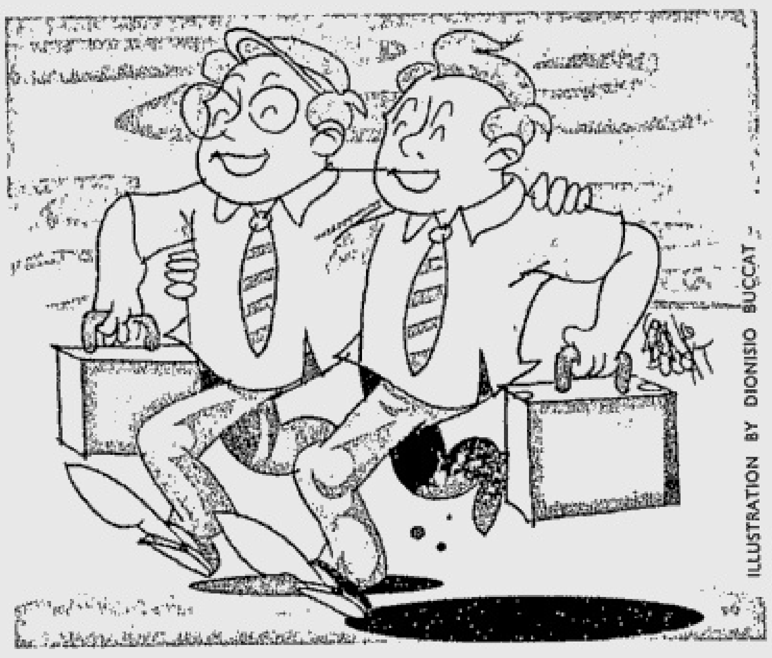
Blessing your blessings

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

THE WICKED SERVANT IN TODAY'S GOSPEL MUST BE A familiar one—every workplace has at least one like him. He's some kind of a *persona non grata* who is blessed with so much and yet does not know how to bless others in return. I remember vividly one who came to the workplace literally begging for a job, if only to boost his morale that had sagged from years of being a *palamon* (or another mouth to feed) in his household. It was damaging to his self-esteem to be an unemployed and unproductive head of the family.

Because it was a "family style" workplace, and out of sheer sympathy for his condition as he still had children in school, he was taken in as a driver, albeit on a "casual" basis until he could find more gainful employment. For his generally light workload, he was paid the minimum wage, but he enjoyed more than the usual fringe benefits due to his gaping financial need, which his Christian boss and coworkers recognized. He could borrow personal money from the boss, advance his salary on need, be first at taking home doggy bags from workplace parties, etc. But in spite of that, he remained mean, and showed ingratitude not only by demanding more benefits and privileges but also by belittling what he was already receiving from merciful hands. When business suffered, he was first to be dropped; after that, he couldn't find any job at all. Now he's back to being a family *palamon*.

When we repay blessings with curses and ingratitude, they sooner or later desert us. But when we recognize the Almighty as the source of our blessings, we trigger in us the mechanism that produces more of them. See it for yourself. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)



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Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35

His master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?"

Golden rule at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I REMEMBER THAT AT A VERY YOUNG AGE I WAS REPEATedly taught at school about the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." Together with my young companions, I learned that respecting this rule, peace and harmony would reign in any group of people and in society at large. I later observed that when people do not live by this principle, chaos, trouble and misery happen in everyone's life. This is likewise taught by Jesus in today's Gospel by relating the parable of the "wicked servant" who was forgiven by his master but who did not show pity to his fellow servant.

The workplace offers everyone the same challenge posed by the Golden Rule. The employer who would wish all his workers to be generous with their work time and productive in their tasks would need also to be generous in paying his workers with a corresponding good salary and perhaps even share the profit with his workers justly. Likewise, the workers who would wish to get the best deal in compensation and benefits for their work would surely have to do their very best on their jobs. When everyone in the workplace (employers, businessmen, investors, managers, supervisors, rank and file workers and others) would not cheat each other but would act by the Golden Rule, then I believe that industrial peace and harmony will be a reality in every workplace; work strikes, lockouts, unfair labor practices and other negative and undesirable situations in the work place will be minimized if not totally eliminated.

When everyone in the workplace remembers and acknowledges God's goodness in his life, doing well to others whether at work or anywhere else would be a lot easier. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I am surviving multiple sclerosis with company's help'

By Ann Reyes-Abanilla

I am AN EMPLOYEE OF Globe Telecom for the past eight years. I wrote this letter to express my gratitude for the compassion and understanding I have received from my employer in the midst of a debilitating condition.

I was a fresh graduate of BS Commerce from St. Scholastica's College when I started working for Globe. I was assigned to the Park Square 1 Business Center in Makati as a customer service assistant. Four years later, I started experiencing severe headaches. The pain soon spread to my shoulders and arms, and lasted for several weeks. In 2001, after a series of tests, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system. It causes damage through the loss of an insulating protein called myelin that protects the connections between nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, leading to various symptoms such as lack of muscle strength and coordination, difficulty in movement, and loss of sensory perception.

I was hospitalized several times and prescribed steroids to help me cope with the pain. All along, my employers in Globe have been very understanding and considerate. They allowed me to go on leave each time I underwent treatment, even though my hospitalizations sometimes lasted for a month or more. The medical insurance benefits provided by the company have also helped a lot in paying for my medical bills.

I continued to serve the company until May 2004, when the pain spread to my legs and feet, and my whole body weakened. I was soon bedridden. My eyesight and bladder control were also affected. This time, Globe granted me an indefinite leave. Even though I have been away from work for over a year, my superiors and co-employees at the business center have been a major source of support and encouragement.

I am truly grateful to be employed in a company that extends this kind of consideration. It made me realize how truly blessed I am in spite of my MS, to have a compassionate and understanding employer, as well as supportive and loving family and friends.

By now, my eyesight has gradually improved and I am able to stand. I look forward to walking again and I keep praying for a full recovery. I'm actually eager to go back to work. As I pray for my own recovery, I also pray for Globe's future endeavors. I firmly believe that God will continue to bless a company with a heart.

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Sykes Asia Incorporated's Mike Henderson; vice-president and managing director for the Asia Pacific Rim and Trend Micro Incorporated's Lane Bess, regional president for North America and general manager for Consumer Segment, signed an agreement last Aug. 18, for the provision of flexible, high quality customer support outsourcing services through multiple communication channels encompassing phone, e-mail and chat. Sykes is a global leader in providing customer management solutions and services in the business process outsourcing arena.

CALL CENTER CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2005 RIBBON CUTTING

Shown at the ribbon cutting on the successfully concluded jobfair at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel in Ortigas Center last Aug. 23 and 24 are from left: Jojo Uligan, executive director CCAP; Darryl Duarte, managing director of DL Mediafocus Int'l.; Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; Raffy David, director, Pilipinas TeleServ Inc.; Benedict Hernandez, VP for Operations, eTelecare.

How do you deal with a bully at work?

DEAR WW: I WORK WITH A guy who has a very short fuse. Short of getting a new job, is there anything that I can do to minimize the odds he'll blow up in my face?
Under the Volcano

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

During college, I spent a summer working in the geriatric unit of a state psychiatric hospital. One day, a patient came up to me yelling and agitated. Before I knew what was happening, he punched me right in the jaw. I was nicknamed punching bag for the rest of the summer by the staff.

I was only punched once that summer, because from then on I was much more aware of trouble's warning signs. I also learned tricks for spotting and extricating myself from dangerous situations. I've listed below a series of potentially dangerous situations and strategies on how to respond. For more, check out "Angry Men" by Lynne McClure (Impact, 2004).

How do you deal with someone shouting in your face? It's tough to stay calm when someone is yelling in your face. One colleague had a great strategy to calm someone down; as soon as they started yelling, he starts whispering. Turning and walking away is also a reasonable response to a bully. Find your own techniques for maintaining control and not allowing yourself to get sucked in to someone else's hostility.

Is it just best to agree with them and to try to move on? Often the path of least resistance is to just agree with someone who is hostile, violent or just a jerk. McClure says that some bullies can be testing you and that you'll only be able to deal with them if you stick by your guns and don't let them push you around. This is not a strategy for the faint of heart, so proceed down this path with caution.

What if they continue to harass you? Bullies hate a fair fight. That's why they tend to hassle specific people, usually when they are by themselves. It's important not to allow yourself to be isolated. Talk to HR, your boss, your union, EAP and to coworkers. There is often strength in numbers.

Is there any way to end the bullying? Some people have successfully stood up to a bully and put the crummy treatment behind them. More often, it's important to build a case and collect all the evidence you can against the bully. Nasty e-mail, abusive notes and conversations overheard by coworkers can all help to document the problems created by the bully. Don't get mad, get evidence.

What if it gets unbearable? Unfortunately, as long as your organization doesn't deal with bullying behavior, the only way to solve the problem may be for you to leave. That's why it's so important to hold management accountable for maintaining a safe workplace and not just let bullies steamroll over everyone else.

Follow these tips and the only thing that should get punched at work will be the time clock.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.comABCnews.com online ballot: What is your strategy for dealing with a bully at work?

—Avoid them, 23.7 percent

—Get HR or your boss involved, 26.7 percent

—Stand up to them, 49.5 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

'Is it bad to be the office cheapskate?'

From page 6★

"cheapskates." They must remember that the expense they save can eventually save their jobs.

On one hand, the customers today continue to be price-conscious. On the other, the cost of doing business has tremendously increased over time. Truly, the market is now flooded with imports—cheap goods from China and expensive petroleum products from the Middle East. For the Filipino businessman, this could be the formula for failure.

This is where the role of the office "cheapskate" comes in. Without sacrificing quality, people at work must strive to reduce the cost of doing business in their own little way. The businessmen must also be able to realize the impact of the employees' collective effort at reducing costs and must reward such effort. Then, being a "cheapskate" truly pays.

Let me illustrate. I understand that the net profit of oil companies per liter of petroleum products is just about the same as the price of one sheet of ordinary bond paper. Assuming that this figure is correct, employees of an oil company who refrain from using bond paper, or reduce their consumption, will in fact reduce the operating costs dramatically. Conversely, usage of one sheet of ordinary bond paper will put pressure on the company to sell one more liter of its products each time.

Handling detractors

Now, let us tackle the other side of the issue — how to handle your detractors. The first thing to do is to identify him, her or them. You can best deal with the devil you know than the devil you don't know. Then, you can devise a personalized approach at dealing with each type.

I will advise you not to attack your detractors head-on. That is counterproductive. Some are just plain nuisance—you can simply ignore them. Others just need attention—give them importance by enlisting them to join in your efforts. You may organize a team of "cheapskates" (call it by another name, perhaps "cost-reduction committee") and enroll all your detractors and make them champions in their own areas. Encourage your bosses to acknowledge the efforts of this group, until cost reduction becomes a way of life in your company. This way, you turn your enemies into allies and you develop a more cost-conscious, albeit competitive, organization.

Cost reduction

In addition to what you are already doing, you can also consider the following cost reduction tips:

1. Get one or two more bids other than from your usual vendors for contracted work or purchases.
2. "Customize your needs" for bidding, instead of getting vendors' ready packages—you might not need the full gamut of services they offer and therefore haggle for discounts.
3. Consider lease options in lieu of buying expensive equipment that you don't use often.
4. Consider potluck during some office celebrations.
5. Let employees volunteer to decorate their own departments during Christmas using recycled or borrowed-from-home materials.
6. Instead of outsourcing work, ask employee-volunteers to do it.
7. Instead of paying overtime, ask for volunteers to do the work free.
8. Instead of outsourcing work or scheduling overtime, get students who need training or "practicum" to work on some projects.

Remember that if you work for a company as if you own it, perhaps someday you will own it, or at least run it, or own and run one like it.

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com)

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ESCALER & COMPANY, INC. (ECI), a conglomerate of companies involved in financial management, food production, restaurant operations, manpower pooling, entertainment talent management, call center operations and real estate, is currently in need of highly qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

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RESTAURANT MANAGER
SALES EXECUTIVES
CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
GRAPHIC ARTIST
SORTERS
MERCHANDISERS*
DRIVERS*

Candidates must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- At least 21 years old
- College graduate / *at least college level
- Computer literate
- Relevant experience required

Interested applicants may see us or send in their resumé and photo to:

The Human Resource Department
ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.
2nd Floor PCPD Building, 2332 Pasong Tamo Extension, 1637 Taguig City
Telephone numbers: 7573001 local 605 or 8438311, Fax number 8842661
Email addresses: jet.magbanua@gourmet.com.ph or marlton@piasi.com

We are **ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.** (ECI), a conglomerate of companies involved in financial management, food production, restaurant operations, manpower pooling, entertainment talent management, call center operations and real estate.

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TELEMARKETER

- 21 years old and above
- Candidates must possess at least a bachelor's/college degree in any field
- Fluency in English required, ability to speak Spanish an advantage
- Preferably with experience in telemarketing or sales
- Computer literate
- Highly motivated, results-oriented, and team player

Interested applicants may see us or send in their resumé and photo to:

The Human Resource Department
ESCALER & COMPANY, INC.
2nd Floor PCPD Building, 2332 Pasong Tamo Extension, 1637 Taguig City
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Greenpeace South East Asia needs a Venue Officer to help in our on-street fundraising in the Metro Manila area. This is a great opportunity to work with the world's largest and most active environmental NGO. The Venue Officer is responsible for sourcing venues that meet the needs and ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Direct Dialogue fundraising program. He/she will be working 8 hours a day, 5 days a week for a total of 40 hours, and will be paid a very competitive salary. Greenpeace is looking for someone who can work well in a team environment. Direct sales and marketing experience, as well as good negotiation skills are an advantage. A genuine concern for the environment is a must.

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Email your CV and letter of application on or before September 11, 2005. to:
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- ✓ Male at least 5'6" or Female at least 5"3"
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- ✓ Preferably single; willing to be assigned in any branch
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- ✓ With experience in handling a retailing business as store supervisor for at least two (2) years
- ✓ Willing to multi-task; Physically fit

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- Strong customer service focus and with ability to work in a team environment; and willingness to learn new technologies
- Proven ability to follow change control procedures
- At least 3 years experience in desktop support and network administration in a Microsoft Windows NT/2000/XP environment; and in supporting Microsoft servers (NT, 2000, 2003)
- Proven ability to work with vendors.
- Have installed and configured Active Directory under Windows 2000/2003; and able to configure/troubleshoot Cisco routers, firewalls, switches, and VPN concentrators
- Ability to document hardware/software configurations and processes and experienced in the management and deployment of desktop applications (MS Office, anti-virus, etc.)
- Excellent troubleshooting and analytic skills.
- Must be proactive, responsible, self-motivated, and able to work well under pressure

Admin Assistant

- College graduate, conscientious, can adapt to pressure, detail-oriented,
- Computer Literate (Microsoft Office), Strong admin/ planning/ communication skills,
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- Provide exceptional external and internal customer service via phone and in person.
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- Female, 23 to 30 years old, preferably single
- Graduate of Management or other business courses
- With at least 1 year experience in secretarial work
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
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- Customer service-oriented, highly organized and flexible

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply in person, Monday to Friday, with application letter, curriculum vitae, transcript of records, and 2x2 ID photo (these are strictly required), or send these to this address:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
#1610 Triumph Bldg., 6th Flr. Quezon Ave., Quezon City
Tel. # 927-9671 to 75 loc 230 / 216.
Or e-mail to: lanie_alfonsozeta@yahoo.com;
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TELEMARKETER

- Preferably a Marketing or Communications graduate
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- Exp must be gained from reputable real estate, consulting or construction firm
- Ability to foster and maintain spirit of unity, teamwork and cooperation
- Strong work ethics and high integrity

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- Able to conceptualize and implement marketing programs and strategies
- Able to lead and train people. With good track record on real estate sales
- Strategic Thinker, strong business acumen, ethics and high integrity

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- AutoCadd knowledgeable, Has artistic inclination
- Knowledgeable in cost estimating, construction mgt, permits & licenses
- relevant experience gained from reputable construction and development firms

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Code: PDO

- Civil Engineer, Architect, Economics grad
- 3 yrs exp. in real estate company as Proj. Dev. Officer or as Market researcher
- Knowledgeable in real asset management and real estate planning and devt
- Adept in conducting project/feasibility studies
- Experience in dealing and negotiating with government agencies
- Resourceful, result-oriented and able to work in a team-based environment

Pls. send your application letter, resumé, 2x2 picture and Transcript of records:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT.
Philippine Estates Corp.
27th Flr. Wynsum Corporate Plaza
22 Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Code: __________

SKYWORLD BUSINESS MERGER, INC.

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TEL. # 524-31-61, 524-24-54, FAX NO. 524-22-90
POEA-074-LB-072905-PL-e
Email. sbmphilippines@yahoo.com / skyworld@pldtdsl.net

URGENT!!!!!! FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!!!

Our principal from TURKS&CAICOS and TRINIDAD&TOBAGO (Both of CARRIBEAN ISLANDS) are in need of Applicants to fill up the ff. positions:

SKILLS / POSITION	NO. OF	PROPOSED WAGE
1. Project Manager (Civil Engineer)	4	US $3,000.00
2. Project Engineer (Civil Engineer)	4	US $2,500.00
3. Quantity Surveyor (Civil Engineer)	4	US $2,000.00
4. Surveyor (Geodetic Engineer)	4	US $1,500.00
5. Master Electrician	4	US $1,200.00
6. Finishing Carpenter	20	US $1,000.00
7. Finishing Mason	20	US $1,000.00
8. Steel Man	4	US $1,000.00
9. Plumber	5	US $1,000.00
10. Landscaper	5	US $1,000.00
11. Fabrication Welder	5	US $1,000.00
12. Aircon Technician	5	US $1,000.00
13. AutoCad Operation Draftsman	4	US $1,500.00
14. Electrician	5	US $1,000.00
15. Painters	6	US $1,000.00
17. Carpenter	8	US $1,000.00
18. Electrician	2	US $1,200.00
19. Foreman	1	US $1,200.00
20. Horticulturist	3	US $1,000.00
21. Servers	14	US $1,000.00
22. Certified Technicians	4	US $1,600.00
23. Dialysis Nurse	6	US $1,200.00-1,500.00
24. Staff Nurse(Labor&Delivery Room)	6	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
25. Community Mental Health Nurse	14	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
26. Operating Theater Nurse	4	US $1,200.00-1,500.00
27. Biomedical Engineering	4	US $3,400.00(Minimum)
28. Anesthesiologist	8	US $3,400.00
29. Ortho & Anatomic Pathologist	2	US $3,400.00
30. Chemical Pathologist	2	US $3,400.00
31. General Practitioner (Community & Family Doctor)	4	US $3,400.00
32. Community Nurses	60	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
33. General Nurses	40	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
34. Trauma Nurses	20	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
35. ICU Nurses	20	US $1,000.00-1,500.00
36. Theater Nurses	20	US $1,000.00-1,500.00

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JOBSITE: ANGUILA(CARRIBEAN ISLANDS)
for fine dining restaurants JOBSITE: TRINIDAD&TOBAGO

SKILLS / POSITION	NO OF WORKERS	PROPOSED WAGE
1. Butlers	7	US $1,000.00
2. Waiters	5	US $1,000.00
3. Bartenders	2	US $1,000.00
4. Restaurant Supervisors	2	US $1,500.00

SKILLS / POSITION	NO. OF WORKERS
1 Structural Rough to finishing Carpenters	30
2. Structural Rough to finishing Mason	20-30
3. Steel Benders / Fixers	20
4. General Labor	20
5. Electrician	5

PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY AND BRING 2 SETS OF RESUME, EMPLOYMENT, TRAININGS AND SEMINAR CERTIFICATES, 6PIECES OF 2X2 PICTURES.

NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED..........BEWARE IF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS...

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☐ Female/Single/below 25 years old
☐ At least 2nd year College
☐ Presentable in appearance

STOCK CUSTODIAN

☐ Female/Single/Below 27 years old
☐ Organize, systematic, flexible

GADGETS PROMOTION MODEL

☐ Female/Single
☐ Below 25 years old
☐ Good communication skills
☐ Enthusiastic and a good character

Should have at least 1 yr. Experience in modeling or promotions

Apply personally (3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday) at 4th Floor, Cyberzone SM Megamall Bldg. B, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 6332011/6373163. Look for Louella Balbiran.

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*** For Manila office:**

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Tel. No. 890-82-77 / 895-91-01
E-mail : makati @philab.net

For Cebu Office:

1B Capitol Centrum Bldg.,
Calvano St., at Escario Street, Cebu City
(032) 2540460 / (032) 2558719

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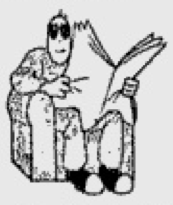

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- Pref. IE Grad. w/ at least 3 years experience in garment merchandising
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- Have knowledge in handling buyers directly
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word & Excel
- Can work under pressure w/ min. supervision
- Female 23-35 years old preferably single

234 Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City
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This citation is very special as it recognizes not only our drive for excellence but also the value we put in developing our workforce. eTelecare is the only call center with presence in the Philippines that has been given this honor.

We sharpen our people to become industry leaders, we leave no stone unturned:

- World-leading behavioral programs like Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, DDI's Interaction Management, Project Management, Problem Solving and Decision Making, which are typically given by other companies to managers only, are made available to every employee at eTelecare.
- More than 100 people are dedicated to look after the training and career development of each employee. Compared with industry standards, we have twice as many people coaching, mentoring and providing support to our front liners.
- Over P130 million have been spent in producing training programs tailor-fit to the individual's level of competence and character. That amount is enough to put up a building, but eTelecare chose to invest it in people development.

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INQUIRER

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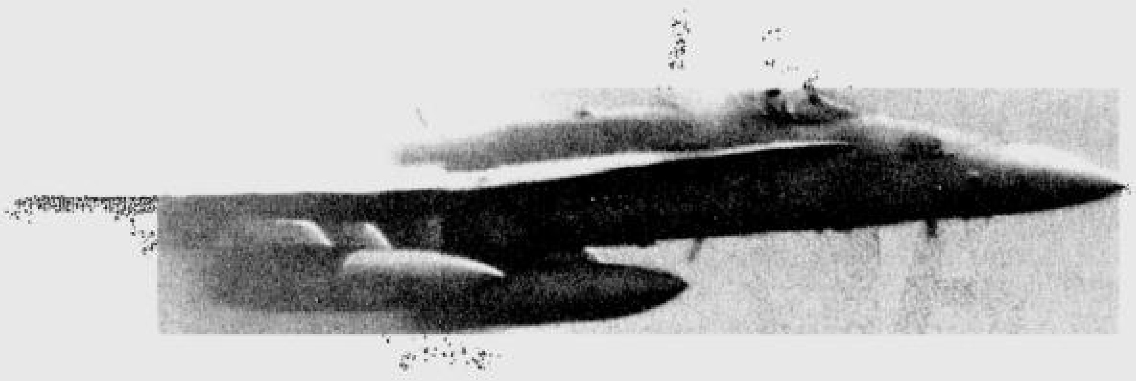

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- ☐ Minimum of 2-3 years managerial experience
- ☐ Strong people skills and supervisor experience
- ☐ In-depth knowledge and ability to interpret Ocean Carrier Rules Tariff, Inland Tariff and Service Contracts, decentralized pricing practices is required
- ☐ Willing to work under night shift
- ☐ Knowledge of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- ☐ In–depth knowledge of regulatory requirements related to Service Contracts
- ☐ Preferably with knowledge in using computer database systems and GQL reporting tool

Supervisors

- ☐ Graduate of any BS or AB degree preferably Business or Logistics course
- ☐ 3 years experience in international or domestic transportation
- ☐ 2 years supervisory experience
- ☐ Knowledgeable of Ocean Carrier Service Contract; decentralized pricing practices
- ☐ Willing to work under night shift
- ☐ Knowledge of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- ☐ Preferably with knowledge in using computer database systems and GQL reporting tool

Analysts

- ☐ Graduate of any BS or AB degree preferably Business or Logistics course
- ☐ Minimum 1 year in the International Transportation industry
- ☐ Knowledgeable of Ocean Carrier Service Contracts; decentralized pricing practices
- ☐ Knowledge of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)
- ☐ Willing to work under night shift
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- ☐ Strong analytical skills
- ☐ Excellent written and verbal communications

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HR Department
P.O. Box 788
CPO 1099 Manila

or

Velco Center
Corner Chicago & 13th Sts.,
Port Area Manila

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Education Quality and Access to Learning and Livelihood Skills
Creative Associates International, Inc., implementing the: "Technical Assistance to the USAID EQuALLS Project", Invites qualified applicants to join us as:

Security, Safety and Travel Logistics Manager

Creative Associates seeks a competent professional to provide security, safety and travel logistics. The Manager would establish and maintain a secure operating environment for project personnel and visitors. Responsibilities would include constantly monitoring the security situation in Central and Western Mindanao, advising the staff on safety precautions and crisis management in the event of emergencies. The Manager is expected to review and finalize a Security Manual and ensure staff compliance. He/she will also maintain regular contact with key informants and keep abreast of any security risk that may affect project staff and properties.

The candidate will have at least 10 years experience in military, security or intelligence work. He or she will have a thorough understanding of the dynamics of the political, social, economic, and security situation in Mindanao; will have an integral knowledge of the structures, doctrines, and operating procedures of the Philippine National Police, and/or the Armed Forces of the Philippines; will have experience of security operations in Mindanao; preferably with an intelligence and/or operations background; will know how to respond to emergency situations caused by fire, national disasters, crime and conflict; will have interpersonal skills appropriate for interacting effectively and harmoniously with expatriate and local colleagues and contacts.

Senior Office Administrator

CAII seeks a professional to supervise the administration of office systems and HR. The Administrator shall initiate procurement; develop administrative systems and policies; oversee the maintenance of IT systems; implement security measures as required; handle personnel-related processes and concerns including recruitment and deployment; train staff on company policies and regulations; and assist with organizing project events, seminars, workshops, and meetings.

We are looking for a graduate in business or public administration from an internationally recognized university. The candidate should have demonstrated ability in managing office systems and administration preferably for a USAID-funded project; familiar with Philippine labor laws and regulations; with at least two years experience in an international development organization; familiar with USAID policies and procedures; with previous experience working in Mindanao and willing to be based in Cotabato City.

Policy Reform Officer

To assist the component Manager in undertaking the education policy research and reform. We seek a mid-level professional with at least 5 years experience working on a project, program or development agency.

Responsibilities include: a) coordination of stakeholder consultations on educational legislation at the national and ARMM levels to identify gaps, inconsistencies, deficiencies and opportunities for fine-tuning; b) conduct of research and analysis of data, c) drafting of policy briefing papers and materials for workshop/stakeholder consultations leading to an education policy reform agenda for ARMM; d) Assistance in the formulation of a responsive institutional capacity development plan; and e) critical and careful documentation of policy-related activities under the EQuALLS project.

Required: degree in public administration, education, social sciences or related discipline from a recognized university; Masters degree or graduate level certificate in a related discipline will be an advantage; demonstrated capacity for designing and implementing policy support activities in an education program or project; demonstrated experience in conducting policy research, formulating a policy agenda, and generating research reports; experience in drafting legislation; experience in conducting institutional capacity-development needs assessment. Relevant work experience in Mindanao is preferred.

Interested applicants may send CV and letter of intent to: **Infoph@ph.caii.com** on or before Sept 17, 2005.

CHATEAU 1771

GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

CHATEAU SENTRO 1771 PORTICO 1771 Sidebar Café

To all food lovers who desire to create the perfect dining experience, we are in search of highly motivated and determined individuals to fill up in the following positions:

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COOKS • RECEPTIONISTS • BARTENDERS

To qualify, successful candidates must have an HRA/HRM/TOURISM degree or any related four-year course
(Fresh Graduates are welcome to apply)
Must have excellent communication skills, and thrive on customer satisfaction.

If you are interested
Send your resume, 2X2 photo, Transcript of Records, and Certificates of Employment or clearance from previous employer to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City
email: hr@chateaugroup.com

Positions Available Until September 30, 2005

CHATEAU 1771

GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

CHATEAU

If your life is enriched by the taste of superb cuisine and your heart is dedicated to excellent service, then our company is the place for you. We are looking for driven, passionate & creative team players to fill in the following positions:

SENTRO 1771

SOUS CHEF

* Must possess management and training skills with solid experience in a la carte service and banquet preparation.
* Knowledgeable in menu planning, menu execution, recipe costing and food presentation.
* Should have at least 2 years Sous Chef work experience.

PORTICO 1771

CATERING SALES MANAGER

* Preferably an HRA/ HRM / Tourism or Business Graduate.
* Has previous managerial and banquet sales experience in the restaurant or hotel set-up.
* Knowledgeable in costing, menu, planning and events planning.
* At least 30 years old and above.
*Thorough, creative, dynamic or organized.

Sidebar Café

RESTAURANT MANAGER

* A minimum of 2 years managerial experience in dining room and restaurant operations is required.
* Must be able to efficiently supervise a shift, training and mentoring skills is an advantage.
* Is highly adaptable and flexible; knows people and management skills
*At least 30 years and above.

If you are interested
Send your resumé, 2X2 photo, Transcript of Records, and Certificates of Employment or clearance from previous employer to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City
email: hr@chateaugroup.com

Position Available Until September 30, 2005

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Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering

Have you got the ability to influence and inspire others with your ideas? Join Oxfam, and be part of a global organisation that is seeking to change the way the world works. Share your commitment and capacity with us, and we will offer you a dynamic working environment, a generous remuneration and benefits package, and the opportunity to develop a lasting career with one of the world's leading international development organisations.

Poverty Researcher, East Asia

Based in Hanoi, your role will be to support Oxfam GB's programme in the region by conducting, managing and communicating high quality research and analysis on key poverty, economic and development trends in the region. Reporting to the Regional Director, the post plays a strategic role in shaping our strategy and policy. You will help senior managers in East Asia to define a proactive research agenda that supports critical opportunities and interests of country teams, as well as wider organisational programme and campaigning priorities.

You need to be a dynamic and influential thinker on development, humanitarian and poverty issues, with a proven track record in producing and managing high quality research. You must have a broad- based understanding of the major development, economic and poverty issues in the East Asia region. In particular you need to bring a sound grasp of international trade and macro-economics, as they relate to poverty and development. You should have an outstanding English-language written and verbal communications skills, with an ability to simplify complex concepts.

All interested candidates are encouraged to apply online at: **www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs** The reference is **INT1231**.If you are unable to apply online, please email your CV and details of how your skills and experience are relevant to this role, to **eahr@oxfam.org.uk**
Application deadline: Monday 26th September, 2005. Interviews will take place in Bangkok on October10 and 11'05.Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Further information about Oxfam can be found on our website, **www.oxfam.org.uk**

MANAGERIAL

KMBI is a Christian development organization, engaged in microfinance and business development operating in major cities of Mindanao and Luzon advocating poverty alleviation. We are currently in need of dynamic individuals who share our advocacy to fill-up the following positions:

R & D/Publication Manager

We are in need of Research and Development Manager who shall be responsible for overall conduct of market research, impact assessment and conceptualisation of marketing tools.

Qualifications:
- Graduate of any business course, an MBA degree is an advantage
- Adept in research and feasibility studies
- Knowledgeable in business policies, issues and trends
- Has exceptional written and oral communication skills

Auditors

We are in need of field auditors who are aggressive and determined, willing to be assigned in Mindanao and in Luzon. Positions are open for regular employment. Work entails travel and assignment in different branches.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of 1-2 years auditing experience
- Proficient in written and oral communication
- Knowledge in accounting and auditing principles

MIS Administrator/Programmer

The position is for regular employment. Must be familiar in program design and troubleshooting.

Qualifications:
- Male/Female graduate of BS Computer Science
- Values driven, diligent worker and people oriented
- Willing to travel in Luzon & Mindanao
- With 1-2 years in programming experience

Accountants/Accounting Associates

The position is for regular employment. Must be familiar in financial report analysis and preparation, hardworking, trustworthy and reliable.

Qualifications:
- Minimum of 1-2 years related experience
- Adept in accounting systems and principles
- Experienced in general accounting, cashflow projection, financial report preparation
- Familiar in Branch-Head Office and Head-Branch office reporting

BDS Associates/Assistants

The position is for regular employment. Applicant must be a graduate of any business or social course, willing to be assigned in Mindanao and in Luzon.
- Knowledge in the conduct of research and feasibility studies, event coordination and training
- Excellent interpersonal, oral and written skills
- Has proven experience in project or business management

Program Assistants

The position is for regular employment, implementer of microfinance program. Applicants must be willing to do field work, physically fit and able to relate well with people.
- Graduate of any business or social course. College undergraduates (minimum of 2 years in college) are also welcome to apply
- Has experience in organizing people and activities
- Interested in working and dealing with people from the grassroots level
- Teachable and teamplayer

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé, with 2 x 2 picture, together with other credentials at KMBI office, 12 KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City, or email at hrd@kmbi.org.ph. You may also inquire at telephone nos., 291-1485-86; fax at 292-2441.

Benefit package includes monthly rice subsidy, coverage for Health and Accident Insurance, entitlement to monthly meal, transportation and communication benefit plus a chance for local and international travel.

ACCOUNTANT

- Certified Public Accountant with at least 2 years experience as Finance Supervisor preferably in a sales organization
- Expertise in the preparation of financial statements, cash position budget and budget analysis, profitability-cost analysis, budget reports
- Expertise in inventory / materials management a plus
- Excellent written and verbal communication and computer skills
- Results-oriented, willing to work long hours and can relate with all levels of the organization and interface with foreign suppliers

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- Accounting graduate with at least 1year work experience
- Excellent written and verbal communication and computer skills
- Quick learner, can work under pressure

KEY ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS / MARKETING SPECIALIST

- 2 years experience in sales managing a national key account in Greater Manila Area or
- Expertise in domestic distribution of smaller retail outlets or wine stores/ liquor wholesalers in Greater Manila Area.
- Expertise in developing, implementing and monitoring effectiveness of in-store promotions.
- Excellent written and verbal communication and computer skills.
- Results-oriented, resourceful and willing to work long hours to achieve set targets.
- Experience in timely submission of sales and related reports.

INVENTORY ANALYST

- Accounting graduate or with MIS Background with at least 2 years experience in the position or related function
- Willing to work long hours and travel to company facilities and store outlets outside Metro Manila.
- Excellent computer skills and in the timely preparation, encoding, collation and analysis of various reports.

Interested parties may send resumés with 2x2 photo, application letter and contact number to the address below. Qualified applicants will be contacted for interview.

The President
Winning Touch International Marketing Inc.
KLG Building, Delbros Ave. cor V. de Leon St.,
Ibayo, Parañaque, Metro Manila
Fax No. 852-0605
Email: exsec@wtim.net

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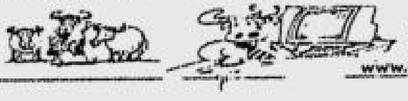

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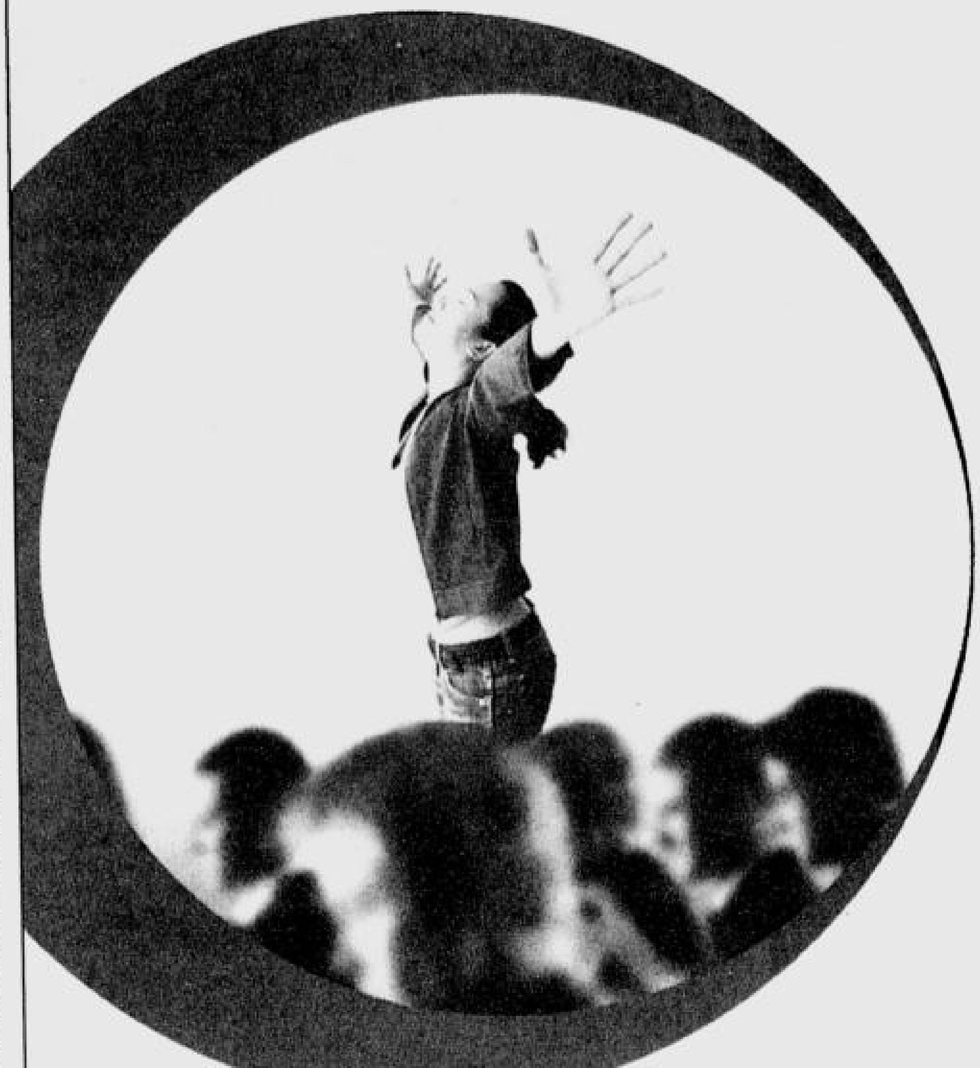

To stay ahead, one must have these three essentials: vision, passion and purpose.

Having the vision to steer your life to where you want it to go is what people like Albert Einstein and Walt Disney had. Passion is that "inner fire" to fan the flame of your dreams to reality. And purpose is the right intention to reach your goals and grasp it in the palm of your hand, in due time.

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Accounting Manager

Applicants are welcome from Mondays to Fridays

Manila *9:30 am to 11:20 am*
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Tel. (632) 860-0000

Baguio *9:00 am to 5:00 pm*
Baguio City Economic Zone, Loakan Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600
Tel. (074) 446-7410

you can send your resume through: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph

Please indicate your desired position as the subject header of your e-mail

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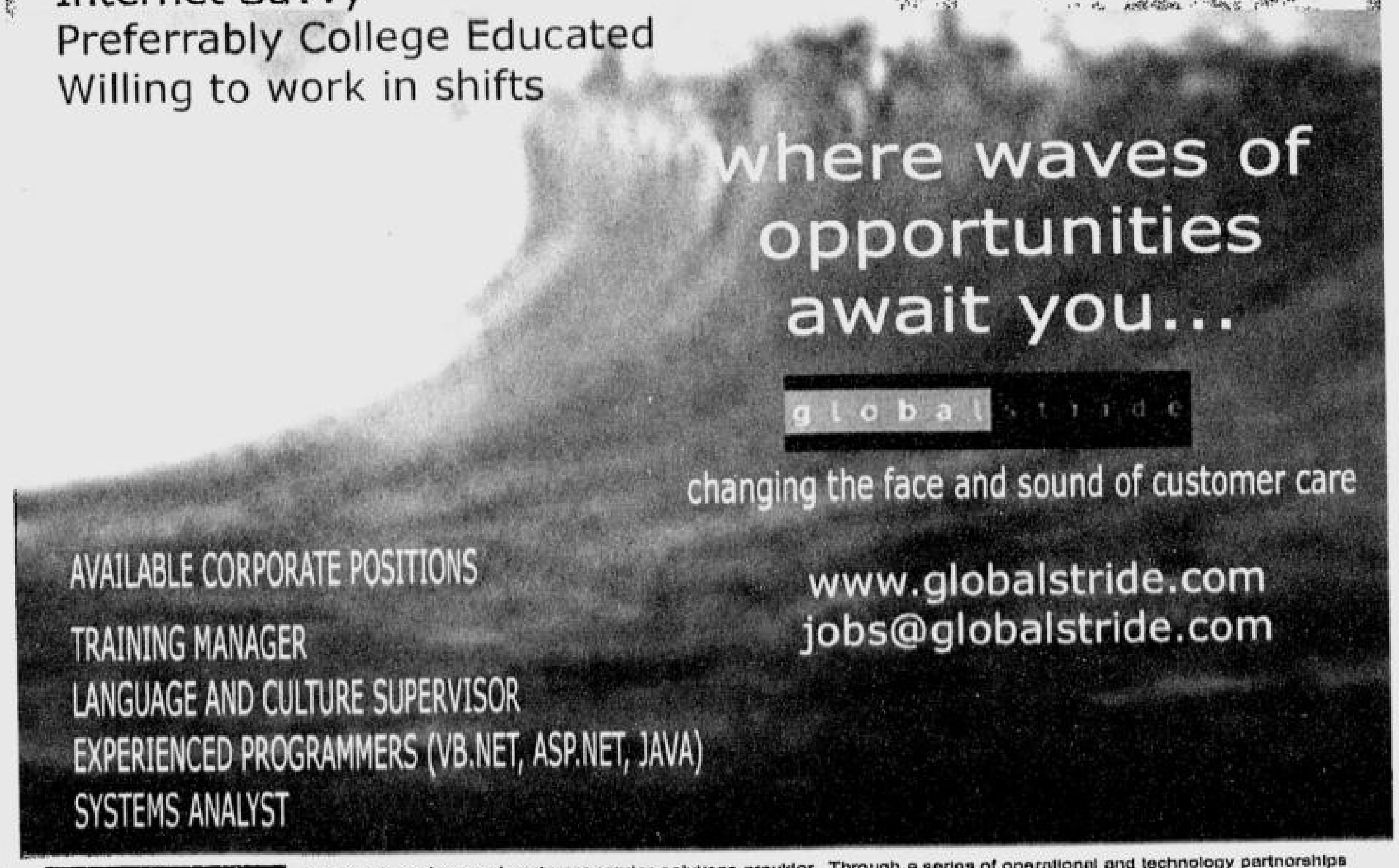

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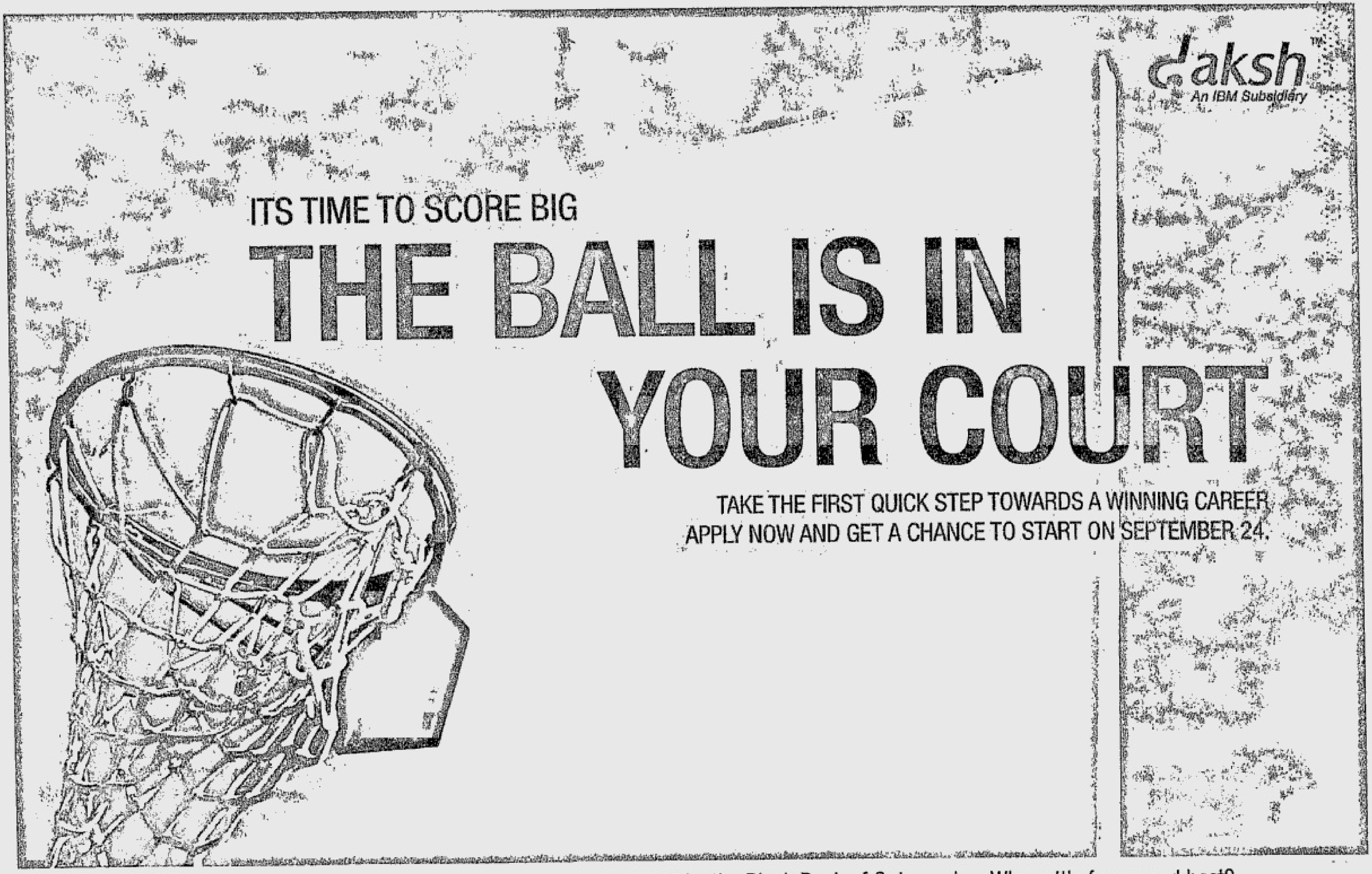
29F IBM Plaza Bldg., Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City Call us at 911-8866 / (Fax) 911-8554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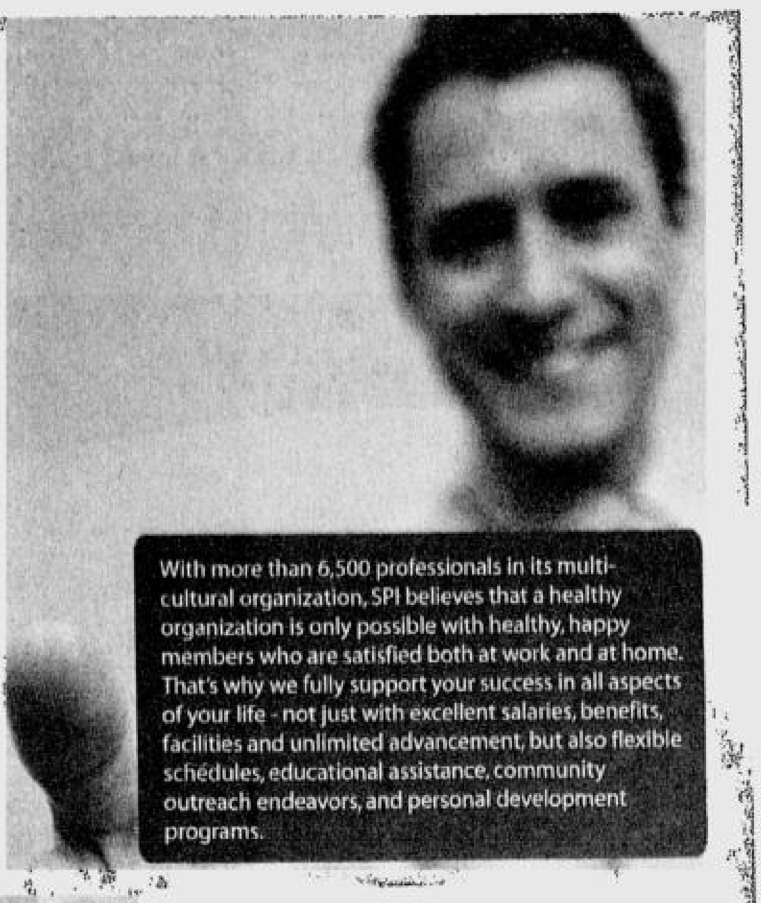

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- Preparing a control guide explaining to all managers and other staff in ADB their responsibilities within the control framework and the work required to support their representation over the adequacy and appropriateness of internal control;
- Conducting staff training on internal control and integrated internal control framework; demonstrating on how to use the appropriate tools to support assertion on the adequacy of internal controls, e.g. Horizon risk management tool;
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- Proven supervisory and interpersonal skills with ability to provide feedback to subordinates;
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Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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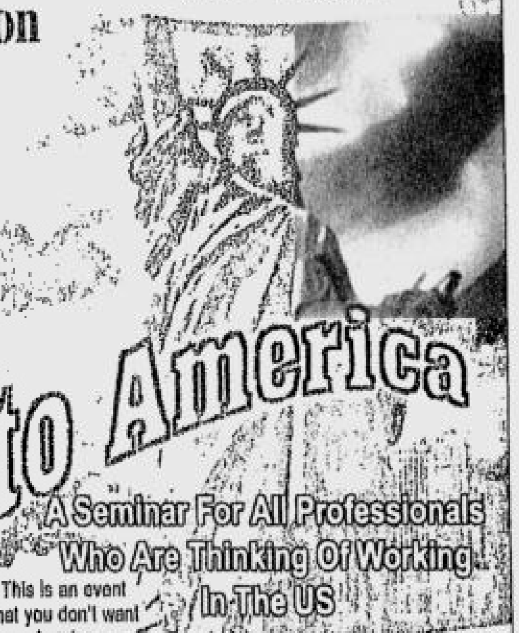

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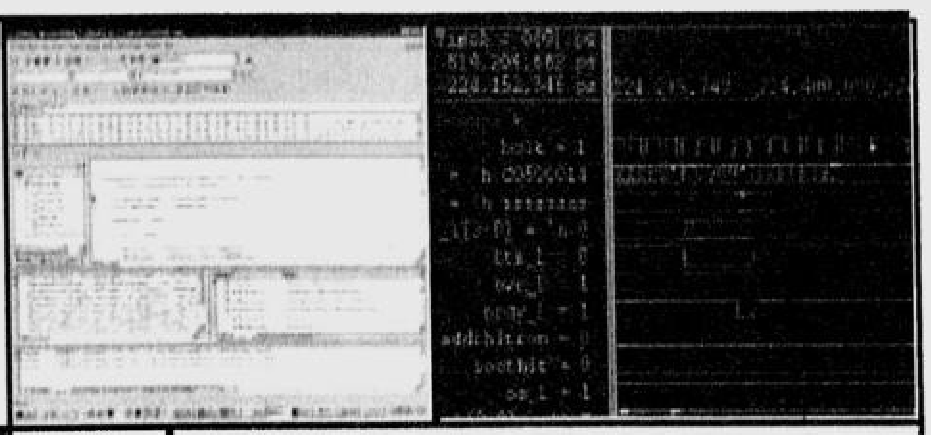

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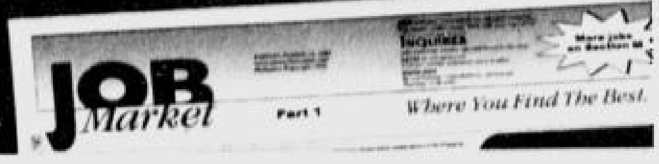

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Time:	***Starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp***	***Starts at 9:00 a.m. sharp***

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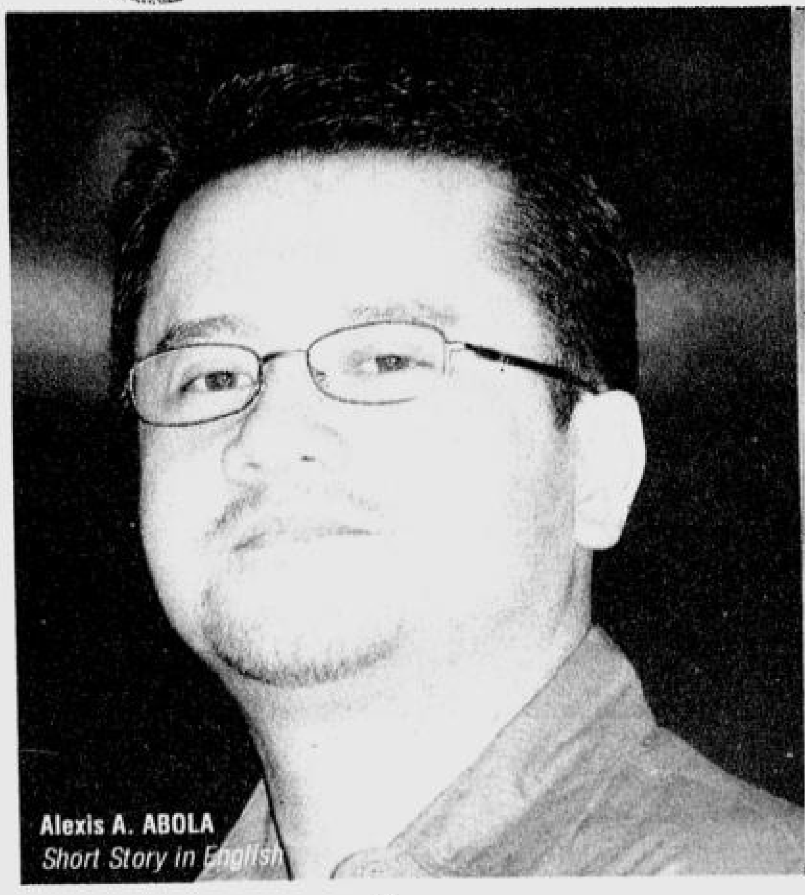
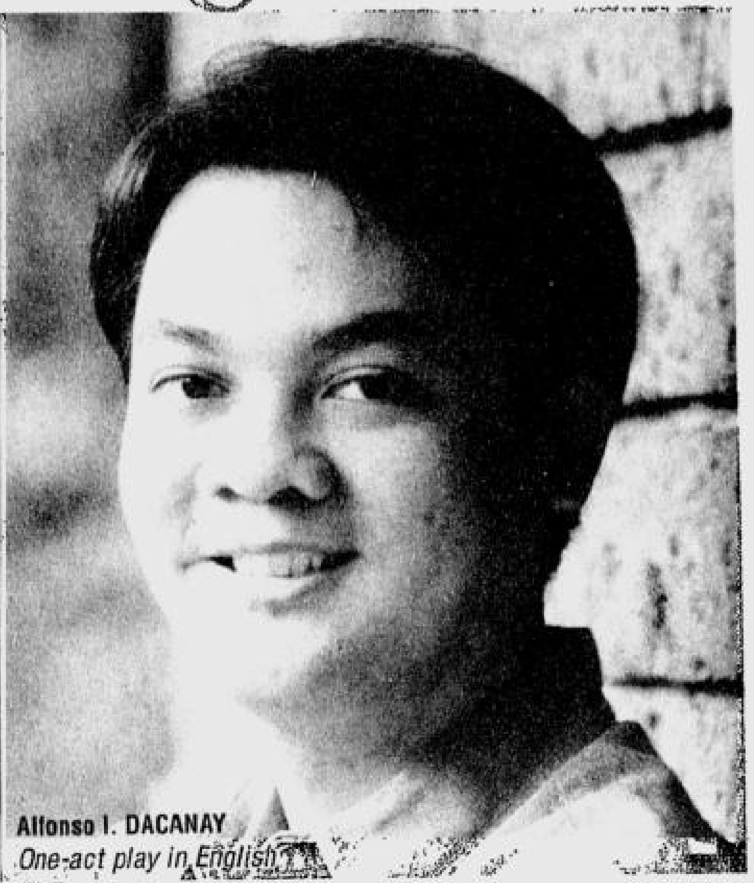
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

Dean Francis ALFAR
Novel in English


Alexis A. ABOLA
Short Story in English


Alfonso I. DACANAY
One-act play in English

RP Literature's Main Attractions

Joseph Rosmon M. TUAZON
Poetry in Filipino

[illegible] MANALASTAS
Futuristic Fiction in English

Reuel M. AGUILA
Full-length play in Filipino

Joel M. TOLEDO
Poetry in English

Agustin PAGUSARA JR.
Short Story in Filipino

Manuel R. BUISING
Teleplay in Filipino
Hall of Fame

The Winners of the 55th Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards

Writers new and familiar take center stage on this, the annual evening of Palanca fame and fortune

by the SIM staff
photographs by Raffy Lerma

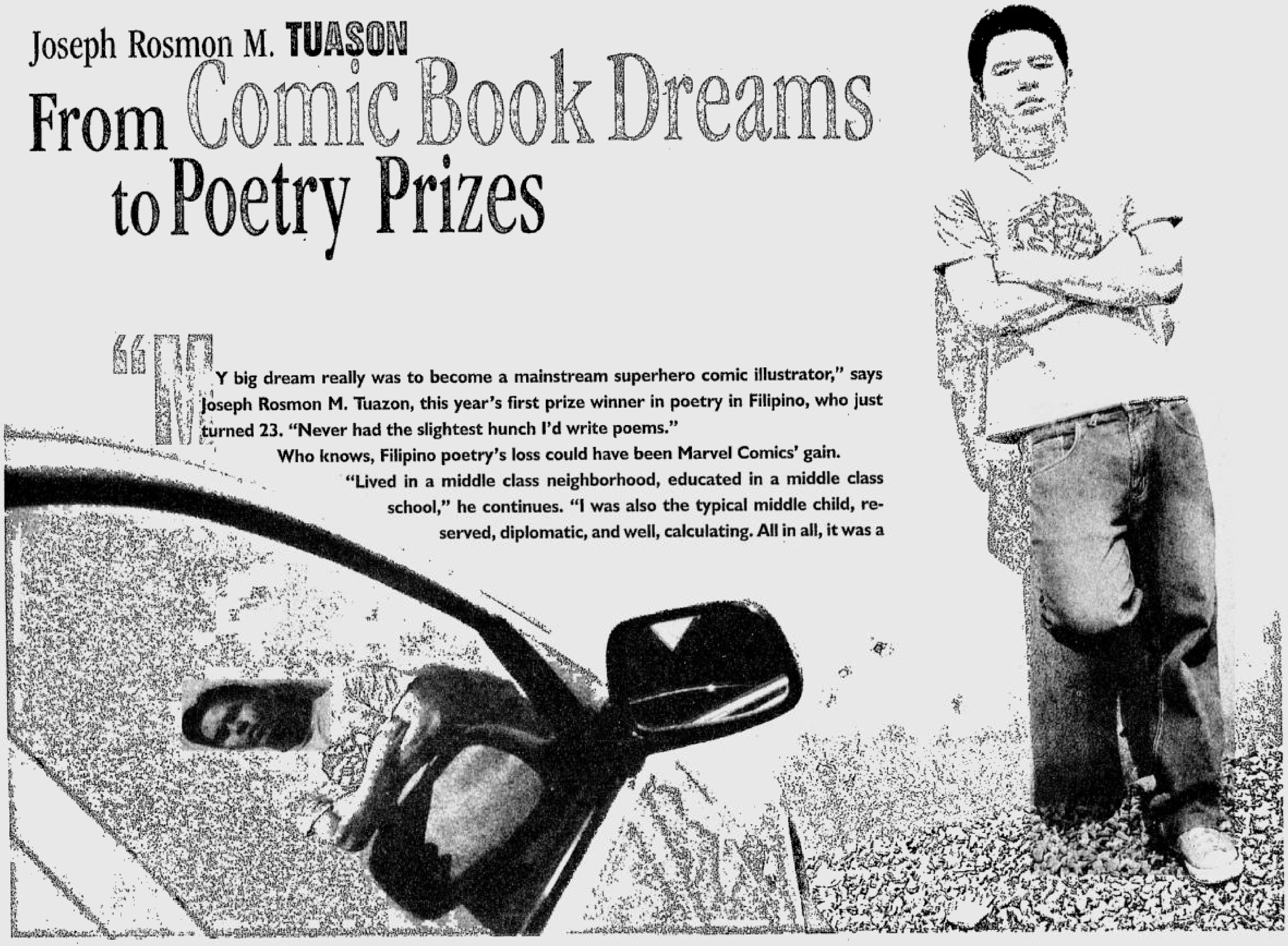
WHAT drives them to do it? What makes otherwise ordinary people capable of harnessing their imagination's offspring, unleashing them onto paper and screen, and somehow, some way, beating that daunting April 30 deadline? What drives the letters to march? Is it the dauntless recognition from their peers as they are chosen to climb that stage on September 1, the writer's dream ritual, the minting of immortals from innocents? What turns even the italics so bold? It is what defines our subjects for the SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE'S annual tribute to the Palanca winners, toasted through the generosity of the Palanca Foundation and the Palanca family.

Introductions are a fitting gesture in that almost half this year's winners are first-timers. It is also a salute to featured past winners such as Hall-of-Famer Luis P. Gatmaitan, Grace Dacanay-Chong, Eugene Evasco, Glenn Sevilla Mas and Lakambini Sitoy, among others. **SIM** salutes them all and, to those who fall asleep dreaming of being next in line, we say, see you next year.

Ruel S. De Vera

Joseph Rosmon M. TUASON

From Comic Book Dreams to Poetry Prizes



"MY big dream really was to become a mainstream superhero comic illustrator," says Joseph Rosmon M. Tuazon, this year's first prize winner in poetry in Filipino, who just turned 23. "Never had the slightest hunch I'd write poems."

Who knows, Filipino poetry's loss could have been Marvel Comics' gain.

"Lived in a middle class neighborhood, educated in a middle class school," he continues. "I was also the typical middle child, reserved, diplomatic, and well, calculating. All in all, it was a fairly regular, secure life. But I was painfully curious about a lot of things. There was always the itch to accomplish something, to devise and improvise every now and then. That's when I got hooked on art, the very idea of creation… art has been a need and want for me. If I were not a poet, I guess I'd be a fictionist instead. I'd try visual arts if not writing at all. I wanted to try everything; I ended up taking Legal Management in college."

As it turned out, that provided the impetus for Tuazon to jumpstart his writing. The college journal provided a ready outlet for his early efforts, and after placing third in a literary contest in his sophomore year, he joined the Thomasian Writers Guild, and later, the UP Writers Club.

"The passion and energy of my fellow campus writers were contagious," he recalls. Fired up, he plunged into a serious study of Filipino poetry thus far, from Balagtas onward, as well as contemporary poetry in English.

"Poetry being a true test of language (and aside from the personal reason of convenience in expression), I believe in Filipino's potential against the demands of modern and evolving poetics," he says.

"The collection explores the idea of the 'poem' as the constant failure to recover, recognize, remember," he continues. "The failure to articulate is the inability to save oneself. The poet is the self-appointed tally keeper and assessor between these 'calamities,' a task that can't even be entrusted to him since history and the inevitable are both true and made up in his hands. This he does to stay sane, perhaps, and safe, while caught in the deadlock of recall and anticipation. The poet could but rely on intuition, cross the path between hesitation and salvation. The poem is a reconstruction of memory and chance, and at times even the poet fails to see its purpose: his. He chooses the manner of his loss.".

Eric S. Caruncho

Excerpt

from **"Sa Pagitan ng mga Emerhensiya"**
by Joseph Rosmon M. Tuazon
First Prize, Poetry in Filipino

Ilang Talâ ng Sakuna

Silbi ng Still Life

May sumisipol-sipol sa tahimik na pasilyo.
Sinisiklot-siklot niya sa palad ang isang kahel.
Bawat silid na kanlyang lampasan ay may abalang
pumapanaw, buo ang konsentrasyon

sa mangkok ng mga prutas na hindi na matiyak
ng mata kung tunay o plastik o pinta

ngunit sa sulok na iyon ay unti-unting nalulusaw,
lumiligwak sa lamesitang wari ding nalulusaw.

Umaabót ang ulirat sa mapipiga, makakatasan
ngunit lalo lamang lumalapot ang lagkit sa lalamunan.

Hindi nagmamadali ang sumisipol-sipol sa pasilyo.
Kay-lamig ng kahel nang sa palad ay mapirmi.

No Parking

Isinandal niya ang bisikleta sa tukod ng senyal
para bumuntunghininga. Hindi iyon pagkakataon:

ang kadena ay hindi minsang pumalyang
madiskaril. Baka dito rin gumarahe

nang mariin ang isang trak na susuray-suray.
Oo, dito mismo. Masyadong planado?

Hindi ko sasabihing hindi. Na may tuluyang
nakalas. Kunsabagay, baka bagay na masusuway

ang mas hanap niya, hindi aksidente.
Anuman, kailangan na niyang magsimula agad,

paspasan ang pagkumpuni. Pansamantala, wala
akong ibang iisipin kundi ang siya ay naghihintay.

Ensayo

Siya nga. Ang anak. Kanina pa siya nag-eensayong
magtimpi sa pagngawa kapag nirolyo palabas

ang inang nakataklob ng puti't bagong-labang kumot.
Hindi siya pipikit, hindi bibitaw ang luha sa pilik.

Kung pagbibigyan (puwede?), siya pa ay makikitulak
hangga't may aawat sa kaniyang tumapak sa exit

kung saan ilan nang tinalukbungang bangkay
ang naihatid. Malapit na niyang maperpekto

ang pagpipigil. Ipaubaya sa kaniya ang kaniyang
sandali. Heto na, ang hilam bago ang pagbulanghit,

ang pag-iling nang kagat-labi. Bumukas ang pinto
at nangamba siyang baka may mag-abot ng panyo.

Minsan Wala ni Usok

Pero gabi-gabing napapasugod ang bombero,
iginigiit na lahat ng maaaring matupok, matutupok

anumang segundo. Kapag disoras, ang magkakapit-
bahay ay niyuyugyog sa kama ng sirena

at sinisilaw ng duguang liwanag mula sa bintana.
Pinaaandar niya ang bomba, kinakalag ang mga hose,

tarantang binubugahan ang bawat bahay at bawat
madapuan ng tingin. Hindi magkandaugaga

ang mga tao kung aalalayan ba o itataboy ang bombero
na sunod silang tinututukan. Tumitilapon silang

basang-basa't namamagang parang mga espongha.
Napakapayapa ng mga umaga pagkaraan ng bagyo.

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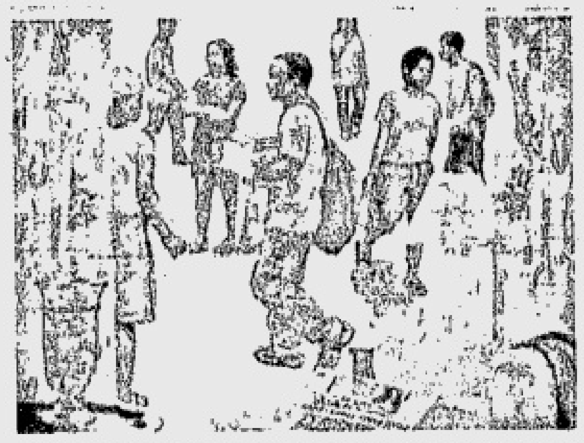


DELOTAVO'S SOCIAL REALISM Antipas Delotavo presents his new oil paintings depicting the country's social condition in the exhibit "Gayak," ongoing until Sept. 12 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City. In photo is "Delubyo," oil on canvas

PALANCA BY THE NUMBERS

Year the Palanca Awards began: 1950
Number of categories in 1950: 1(Short Story in English and Filipino)
Number of categories in 2005: 23
Total number of awards given since 1950: 1,726
Total prize money given in 2005: P684,000.00
Total number of judges in 2005: 69
Total number of submitted entries in 2005: 973
Category with the most entries in 2005: Short Story-English (112)
Category with the least entries in 2005: Full-length Play-English (7)
Number of first-time winners in 2005: 26
Number of first prizes necessary for the Hall of Fame: 5
Number of writers now in Hall of Fame: 18

Deadline for next year's Palanca Awards: Midnight, April 30, 2006

Manuel **BUISING**

FPJ's Writer Writes with A Social Conscience

HE would have been a teacher and, in fact, Manny R. Buising took up Education at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, until he came upon the wider world offered by writing.

"Teaching' is a noble profession," says this grand prize winner in the teleplay category who joins the Palanca Hall of Fame this year with his *"Niños Inocentes."* "But it felt like being boxed, like limiting my contribution to society." Writers, he observes, can reflect the thoughts and intentions of people, be they government officials or humble peasants. "You can wake people up and stir dormant emotions with your pen," he adds. In fact, says Buising, people these days trust the media more than the authorities. "You can be fearless in your writings."

Indeed, his works fairly cry out with social relevance, says Buising, this being "the social conscience that lifts the masses from exploitation." His best work, he says, is *"Kung Bakit May Nuno sa Punso,"* which tackles the presence of American military bases in the country. "The bases are like *nuno sa punso,* preternatural beings in our own backyard that we were hesitant to destroy for fear that they would get back at us."

"Niños Inocentes" deals with a similar evil, he cites. The teleplay exposes how minors are used by pedophiles through cybersex or sex videos, often with the knowledge and consent of their own parents. "This is something I feel strongly about, the way children are victimized by their poverty and their family ties."

Buising, who has won five grand prizes and two second prizes for his plays, grew up dreaming of becoming a writer. Starting out with poetry, he recalls how a music teacher encouraged him to branch out into essays and short stories. At the Ramon Magsaysay High School, he became editor in chief of the school paper and soon started contributing short stories to Liwayway Magazine. He also brought home countless awards from inter-school writing contests, and earned enough allowance money to make his parents jump for joy.

After college, Buising continued his lucrative writing sideline, until he became the official screenplay writer of Fernando Poe Jr. from 1990 until the actor died last year. His biggest personal dream, he says, is to see the flourishing once more of the local movie industry. He is currently one of the episode writers of the ABS-CBN *teleserye, "Anghel na Walang Langit."*

Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Excerpt

from **"Niños Inocentes"**
by Manuel R. Buising, Hall of Fame
First Prize, Dulang Pantelebisyon

19. LOOB . MALIIT NA OSPITAL . KARUGTONG NA GABI .

Sa likuran, makikita ang karatulang emergency room. May sinasabi ang DOKTOR kina STEPHEN, MENCHU at DINDO. Halatang hindi mapakali si DINDO. Parang may iniisip na malalim.

DOKTOR :

SEXUALLY ABUSED ANG BATA. *EXCESSIVE TRAUMA* ANG NANGYAYARI SA KANIYA NGAYON. PUWEDENG MATAGALAN SIYA DITO SA OSPITAL, PARA SA *THERAPY*... KUNG 'YON AY GUGUSTUHIN LAMANG NG MAGULANG.

MENCHU:

(Maiiyak.) MAHAL NA MAHAL KO ANG ANAK KO. PERO, WALA AKONG PERA PARA...

STEPHEN:

(Agad na aakbayan si MENCHU.) H'WAG N'YONG PROBLEMAHIN ANG GASTOS, ALING MENCHU. MERON NAMANG PROGRAMA ANG NETWORK NAMIN PARA SA KAWANGGAWA. AKO NA HO ANG BAHALA D'UN. ANG IMPORTANTE... MAKA-*RECOVER* SI DAVE! *(Sa DOKTOR.)* SIGE HO, DOK... IPAKO-*CONFINE* NA NAMIN ANG BATA!

DOKTOR:

THAT'S FINE! O SIGE... MERON PA AKONG AASIKASUHIN.

Tutunguhin ng DOKTOR ang emergency room. Parang nanghihina si MENCHU habang uupo sa mga silyang nasa lobby.

Mananatiling nakatayo sa harapan niya sina STEPHEN at DINDO.

Larawan ng pagsisisi si MENCHU. Pasabunot na susuklayin ang buhok.

MENCHU:

(Pagaralgal ang iyak.) HINDI PA KASI AKO NADALA. NALOKO NA 'KO NG KANO... IPINASOK KO PA SA UTAK NI DAVE ANG PAGTITIWALA SA MGA TURISTA. IPINILIT KONG KADUGO NIYA ANG MGA 'TO! *(Hahagok na parang hindi makahinga. Pahikbi.)* A-AT HAYUP NA DOLYAR NA 'YAN. WALA NA 'KONG BUKAMBIBIG KAY DAVE KUNDI... DOLLAR... DOLLAR!

DINDO:

HINDI NAMAN LAHAT NG TURISTA, MASAMA, A!

STEPHEN:

TAMA KA MANG DINDO. PERO, TULAD NG ANUMANG LAHI, KAHIT SA KABABAYAN NATIN... ME' LUMULUTANG TALAGANG BULOK. MAPAGSAMANTALA... ABUSADO SA KAHINAAN NG IBA.

DINDO:

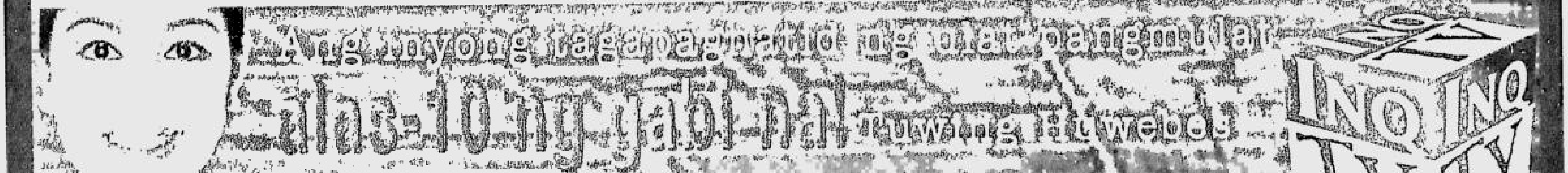
STEPHEN, *REPORTER* KA. ALAM MONG DAHIL SA KAHIRAPAN, MARAMI ANG KUMAKAPIT SA PATALIM. KAHIT NGA MUSMOS, 'DI BA?

To page 7

INQUIRER
EXIT: JUDDHA. ENTER: THE HORROR SCREEN TEST!
HOLLYWOOD DREAM
Hosted by
Eric Quizon
TONIGHT 9:00PM
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN				National Basketball League				Ting ng Bayan (Live)			The Working President	Batto Royale		The Sports List	Go For Gold		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Dreng
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Qpids		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K	Pinoy Big Brother	TV Patrol World	Search For A Star In A Million		Sunday Family Cinema			
ABC 5		Ringside		WNCAA Highlights	Brunei Cup									Hollywood Dream		Maxmedia Specials			
GMA 7	Gigstors	Love To Love			S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy Ncis		Without A Trace		Pacquiao Vs. Velasquez					
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		The Life And Hopes Of Jaime Cardinal Sin		Sine Asia				Iyo Ang Kasarungan	EL SHADDAI		
SBN 21		Gabay At Aksyon		Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon		SBN Sing Along	
Studio 23								Nginig: The Hidden Files		Y Speak		Two & A Half Men	Joey	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10 15PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer	Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines	MTV Lokal	Cribs	MTV Live		Meet The Barkers	Punk'D	Pimp My Ride	Spring Break	2005 Pilipinas Red Carpet Special	2005 MTV Pilipinas Awards						Whatever Things	Rockola	MTV Play	MTV Live
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Hit Chart				My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	Daily Show With John Stewart	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Daily Show With John Stewart	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	Next@CNN
ESPN					Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	WNBA Action	2005 WNBA Playoffs				Soccer FIFA Fever	Sportscenter Asia						Eng. Premier Football League-	
Solar Sports													Sports Desk	Phil 9-Ball Open 2005					NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus						Monster Jam		Celebrity Poker		US Open 2005 Women's Final		Raceworld		Napa Tunervision	Inside the PGA	Bell Canadian Open			
Cinemax				Poodle Springs			Relentless (5.45 PM)			The Hunted (7.15 PM)				Confidence			Red Dragon (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Ladies Man	Arthur Hailey's Detective				Arthur Hailey's Detective				Regenesis		Regenesis		Dummy			Wire In The Blood 10:35PM		
Disney Channel		Book Of Pooh	101 Dalmatians	House Of Mouse	Quack Pack Special		Lion King's Timon & Pumbaa	Kim Possible	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Extreme Engineering		Mummy Autopsy		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Fall Of The Mongol Hordes		FBI Files		Power Zone	
National Geographic		No Borders				Crocodile Chronicle	Chimp Diaries	Innovation Megacities Week		The Mafia/ Megacities Week		Megastructures/ Megacities Week		Best Of The Week		No Borders		Seconds From Disaster	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Mysteries	Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Justice League	Harvey Birdman (11 15PM)	Mission Hill
Nickelodeon	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Cats In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Best Of Celebrity Tables		Child Stars Of The 80's		Blue Velvet				Style Star	It's Good To Be
Star World	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Tru Calling		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	One Tree Hill		The Simpsons	Kumars At 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		Nighty Night		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
AXN		Killing Time				Boarding Pass	30 Seconds To Fame	AXN Shakedown		Guinness World Records	Guinness World Records	Fear Factor Season V		CSI: Season 4		CSI: NY Season I		CSI: Miami Season 3	
JackTV		Reno 911	Blue Collar TV	X-Play	Sweat	Street Smart	The Sib Show	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				Shorties Watching Shorties	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Outback Jack/ Love Shack		ET Weekend	
HBOCarnivale 08: Lonnigan, Texas		The Last Samurai					Bata: Wings Of Change			The Big Preview: Syriana	The American President				Dave Roberts: Former Child Star				
Star Movies	Air Force One (2:40 PM)				Joe Dirt (4.45 PM)				Runaway Jury (6.20 PM)				Opening Night	Twisted			Nine Lives (10:40PM)		
Cinema One				Dito Sa Puso Ko				Forever My Love				Bout Of U				Singles			
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3.15 PM)	EWTN Bookmark	Adventures In Odyssey	Faith Factory D	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Global Showcase		Octavio Dios	Fr. John Corapi		Sunday Mass				The World Over	Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Karen **MANALASTAS**

This Molecular Biology Major Takes Stock of Her Future

IT'S a dystopian vision of the Philippines, to be certain, half a century down the line, with white sand being trucked into Pampanga to produce a larger, faux Boracay for sun-bathing Caucasians while the locals dress up as natives for the tourists' pleasure. It's the tale of "Treasure Islands," and 20-year-old Karen Manalastas explains her story "is based on several what ifs. What would happen if everything that's happening today were exaggerated a hundredfold? What if, instead of just nurses and teachers leaving to work abroad, everybody did? What if the whole Philippine archipelago was converted into a tourist destination?"

And there's no sci-fi in "Treasure Islands," no goshdarntootey newfangled technology, even if Manalastas is a fourth year BS Molecular Biology and Biotechnology major at UP Diliman. She's quite a tale to be told, the daughter of Ateneo computer science teacher Dr. Pablo R. Manalastas Jr. and Dulce Guillermo Manalastas, who manages the Bodhi Vegetarian Restaurant.

Though Manalastas intended to get into medical research, she discovered she loved fiction in her freshman year when she took a Creative Writing class just out of curiosity. She flourished in the possibilities, persevering to write in her spare time, even if short stories were very different from the scientific writing her studies required.

And yet "Treasure Islands" was, like many Palanca gems, a product of last-minute ingenuity. "I remembered that I needed to submit something for the Palanca awards four days before the deadline. I was writing almost nonstop for two days. I must have screwed up my metabolism by skipping meals, and subsisting on junk food whenever I got hungry."

Even then, the unassuming, smiling student certainly didn't expect to win. "I only joined because it was a way of reminding myself not to stop writing, despite a ridiculously busy schedule. I was writing my thesis proposal during the Palanca awarding ceremony," she says. She's clearly overwhelmed by the prize. "*Sobra*," she says breathlessly.

And she's not an angry person, despite the strong language and graphic images embedded in her winning entry: "I wrote the story partly in first person, so I guess it's only natural to wonder which of his convictions I share. I do feel strongly about brain drain, and feel that it represents a sad lack of a sense of nationalism among us, and the sorry state of our economy, that's forcing competent doctors to study nursing, and our more capable teachers to leave behind thousands of students who are in need of their instruction. I don't hate foreigners, but I do believe that there are inherent evils, or should I say, disadvantages, in the tourist trade."

In the present, Karen Manalastas celebrates a gift from the muses even as she ponders going to grad school in a year. Will writing still be in her future? Of that, she says confidently, you can be certain.

RSDV

Excerpt

from **"Treasure Islands"**
by Karen Manalastas
First Prize, Futuristic Fiction-English

"Same order, Nick?" Gasoline Boy punches some numbers into his console.

"Yeah, but add about 50 gallons." Sh-t, gasoline costs 150 a liter now. Those cheating Arab f-cks. Good thing this isn't my money. I hand him Sir Reyes' Business Card.

"You run out last week?" Gasoline Boy asks, taking it.

"Nope, but almost. It always pays to be prepared."

Gasoline Boy mutters "plus 50 gallons" under his breath, while punching some more numbers. "Those Anglos sure like to go exploring, don't they?"

I grunt noncommittally. Gasoline has a myriad of uses.

The heat is a killer. I could feel the back of my neck being grilled by the sun. I walk to the shade of the convenience store, and already, I could hear the buzz of the air conditioner. In extreme conditions, you appreciate the simple things: air conditioning, water. Pushing open the door to be greeted by a blast of cold air, I am met by a familiar ass.

She's standing with her back to the door, so she doesn't see me. She's wearing jeans, not a G-string, as she does on the Park, but the pants are snug. Even just by looking, I
can remember how those chee
hands. I have a good memory.

"Nick," she says, turning ar
me.

"Hey," I say. She still looke
Same hair, same face, same ass.

"Still working at the Park?" I
is an Agta preserve, open for A
to 'mingle with the natives.'

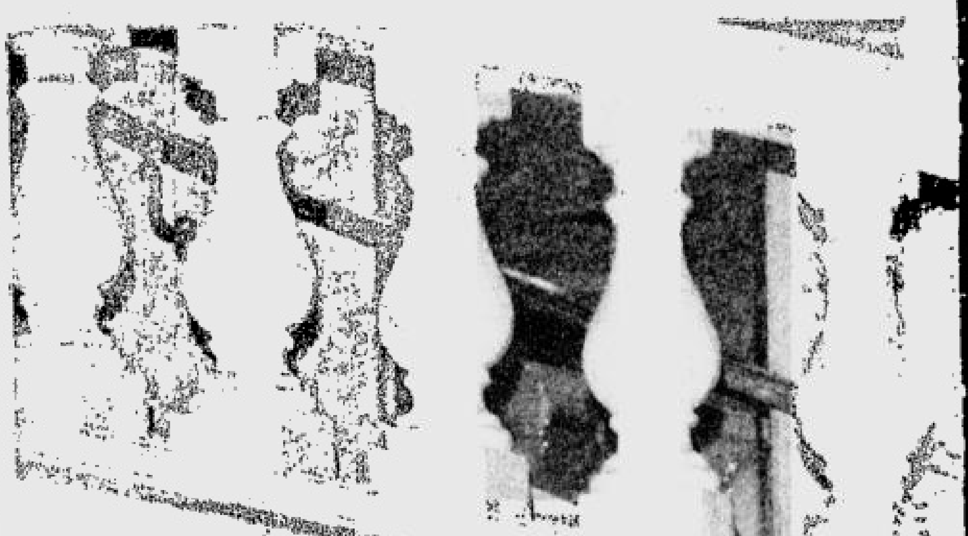
"Yeah. Still 'Freak Show Ext
She slides her Personal Card int
machine slot to pay for what ap
a bag of potato chips. Like
things, it's made in China. The
potato chips.

The first time I saw her do th
and speak in English, and wea
amazed. We went to one of the
when I was in primary school. N
Agtas talked to us, or to each
then, I thought that they didn't
talk. They could make you
dumb monkeys, they're that go

"Still," she says, "it's a de
job."

Agustin **PAGUSARA JR.**

Prison Released This Man's Trove of Prize-Winning



IRONICALLY, for Agustin Pagusara Jr., this year's first prize winner in the Filipino short story category, prison was a liberating experience.

A law student at the University of San Jose-Recoletos in Cebu at the turbulent cusp of the '60s and '70s, he was drawn in by the burgeoning nationalist movement. When martial law was declared in 1972, he was among hundreds of activists rounded up and imprisoned.

"In prison, time was both friend and enemy," he says. "Friend because it afforded me time to rediscover my real love. And enemy because, in spite of the five long years, time was never enough for me to gain competence or excellence to provide literary expression for what I thought thrived in abundance in my soul."

Pagusara was born in Tangub, Misamis Occidental on July 10, 1939. He first showed a literary bent in school, where his themes in English and Filipino won praise from teachers. At the same time, he was an avid reader of Bisaya (the Cebuano edition of the weekly Liwayway) and other magazines.

"I was exposed early to the literary styles of various writers, such as Nemesio Caravana, Susana de Guzman, Tomas V. Hermosisima among them. Later, I would find out that Susana de Guzman and N. Caravana were not Cebuanos, and their novels were just translations. But I adored their craft. And these created great influence on my literary inclinations, especially my grounding in the Cebuano language."

Pagusara wrote his first short story—in Cebuano—when he was 13. From then on, he would submit stories to Bisaya, and works in English for the Graphic magazine short story competition. At the University of San Jose, he was also editor of the school paper.

"But when I got involved in the nationalist youth movement during those years my love for the Cebuano language, my mother tongue, was revived," Pagusara recalls. "And I decided this was where I belong. This is where my soul resides in all its joys and pains."

Pagusara has been teaching literature at the Ateneo de Davao, and honing his skills in Cebuano writing. Last year, he won second prize in the Palanca's Cebuano short story category. This year, he won the same prize in the same category, with a welcome bonus: first prize in the Filipino short story.

"I plan to continue putting into print the stories of people's struggles and life experiences in Mindanao—the little known stories of the Moro people, the Lumad and the deprived sectors of society," he says. "We hope to highlight and bring to the consciousness of the mainstream society the microcosm of Mindanao society in the ungodly places and times of the beleaguered island. This is my passion. This is my message."

ESC

Excerpt

from **"Mga Landas ng Pangarap"**
by Agustin Pagusara, Jr.
First Prize, Maikling Kuwento

Huwag mong pigilan ang iyong luha, Iris. Umiyak ka. Hayaan mong dumaloy lahat ng lumbay. O di kaya'y kumanta ka! Kantahin mo ang malungkot na ritmo sa iyong kaluluwa. "Araw na lubhang mapanglaw, lipos ng kadiliman, nasadlak ang kanyang buhay para sa iyo bayan…" kaparis ng pagkanta natin sa pagkamatay ni Enrique, estudyante ng Lyceum, na halos durog ang ulo't bali-bali ang katawan sa mga hampas ng truncheon… "ang kanyang simulain tigmak ng dugo't luha, at dapat nating itaguyod hanggang sa wakas…" Naaalala mo? Oo, hindi mo malilimutan yong gabing…

Unti-unting bumibigat ang hangin sa ating hiyaw. May halong takbo ang ating mga hakbang na nakisabay sa mga silabol ng "imperyalismo, Piyudalismo, Burkrata Kapitalismo! Ibagsak!" Sa kabilang bahagi naman ng mahabang martsa dumadagundong ang "Sigaw ng bayan, himagsikan!" ng dumadaluyong na taumbayan. Ang sagadsad ng libu-libong paa sa mga kalsada ng University Belt patungo sa Mendiola, hindi malayo sa tirahan ng Dambuhalang Buaya ng Pasig, ay nagpalipad sa alikabok, naghalukay sa maalingasaw na mga estero't kanal ng ating pinakamamahal na Siyudad.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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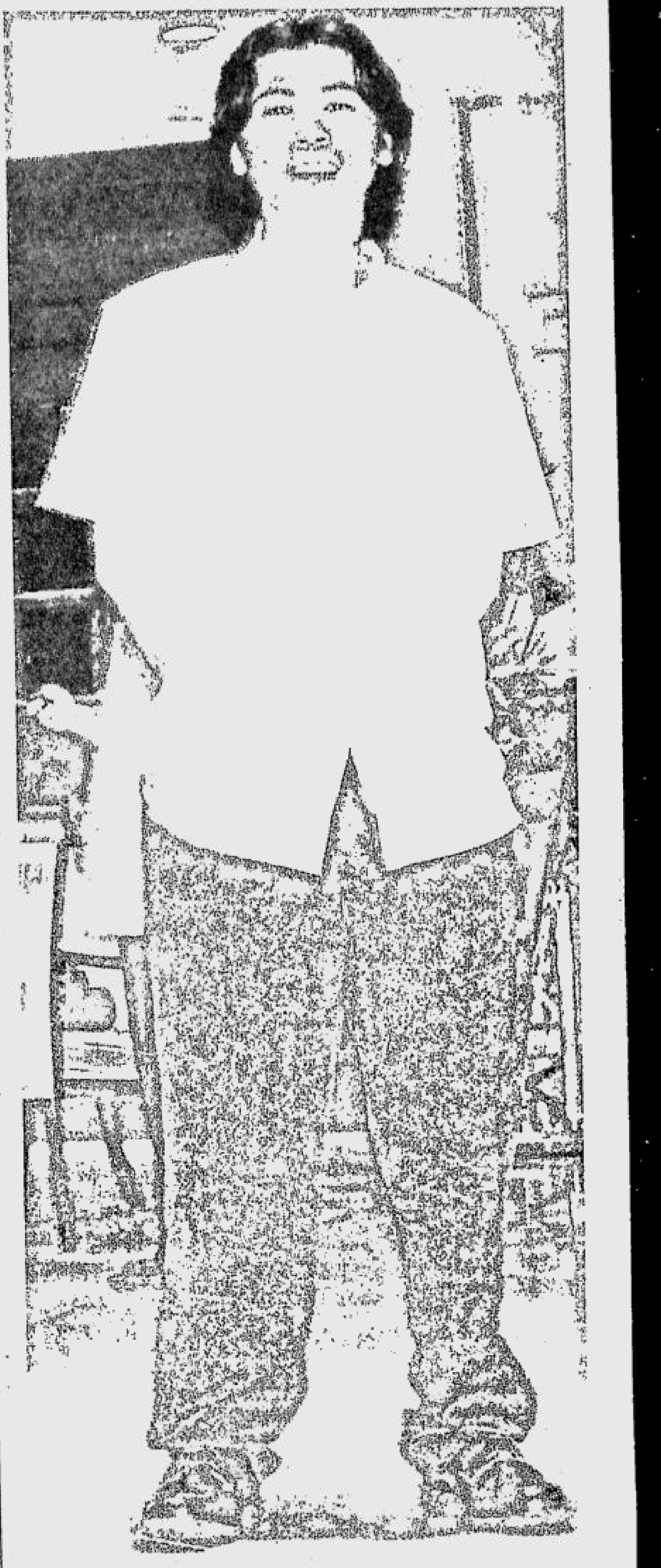
Joel M. **TOLEDO**

What Shines in His Poems is What Remains Precious



IN a world of irony and strange circumstance, Joel M. Toledo's first prize is a gentle reminder that nice guys do finish first sometimes. Shy and self-deprecating, the 33-year-old Toledo's collection, "What Little I Know of Luminosity," speaks of a delicate balance. "I like to think most of the poems in the collection can be compared to those sepia-toned photographs we keep somewhere around the house to remind us every now and then of intense distances," he explains. "I grew up in a barrio where electricity was a privilege. We did not have power in the house until I was 10, and only because we needed it for my grandmother's wake."

That was back in his childhood in Silang, Cavite. Toledo earned a degree from the Cavite Institute before taking up Journalism and Creative Writing at UP Diliman. Life is quite different now for this English teacher at Miriam College. Married to April and with two children, Red, 7, and baby girl Moira, who's 1 1/2 and "just won't keep still," Toledo began writing poetry after starting out with fiction. "I was terribly shy with my poems and, even now, my attitude towards it is simply that I am writing about what I know or can fully imagine. I think there's no place for poetry outside the heartfelt," he says.

His was a determined and quiet climb to this poetic peak, last year winning second prize in the same category, and now going back-to-back. "The recognition is tremendously inspiring; I think a Palanca would encourage any aspiring writer to write more, to devote more time to honing the craft." He now looks forward to finally finishing what he calls his long-overdue Master's degree and publishing his first book of poems. He's also hoping his band Bayaw can get into the studio and record some songs.

But for now, there is celebration and much brightness for Joel M. Toledo. "The great paradox between living now in a well-lit city and of a childhood spent with the oppressive light of kerosene lamps in a way fuels the poems in the collection."

RSDV

Excerpt

from **"What Little I Know of Luminosity"**
By Joel M. Toledo
First Prize, Poetry in English

We Have Such Solid Measures For Pain

Now I desire no more from poetry
but true feeling.
—Derek Walcott

Exact is not the word; the hurting is felt
in many places.

Consider the stars and their distant stabilities.
We had made sense of their positions
long before science understood
their symmetry, long before the world
was round. The way they traverse the sky
must mean something important, we say.
Such slowness, such deliberateness,

such weight. The SkyLab fell in 1979,
wounding the world somewhere far
from what is significant: wood
and its natural hardness, the difficult carvings,
the impressions, welts on skin.
A father testing the firmness of a branch.

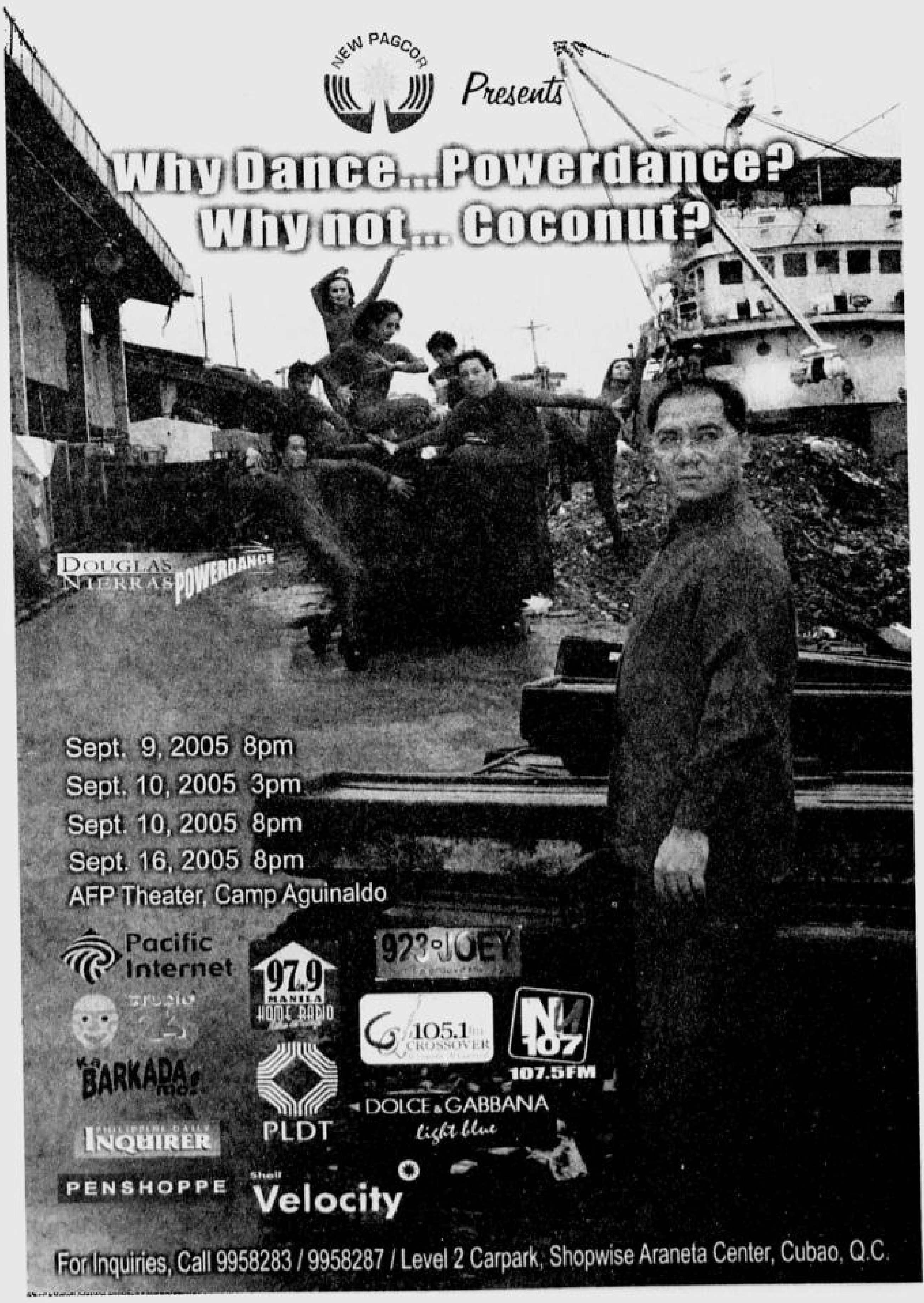
Evening falls with its steady constellations,
its heavy meanings. But we are just too far,
too scatterred. Proximity makes more sense—
the way the waxing moon threatens the tides,
sharpens the long, twisted fingers of trees.
The way grains of salt seem to open the skin
even before one kneels on them.

There is nothing to fear in the abstract,
in fact. UFOs, The Big Bang,
the pull of black holes, event horizons.
The Moon Landing, live via satellite.
A comet blazing past, wish-heavy, posing
no danger. Orion's belt, remote and unused.

Why not something more solid? A buckle
glinting in the half-dark, its erratic arc
slicing the atmosphere, the orbit of pain,
all the aching stretches of the universe,

and the child's body yielding
upon impact.

Stories



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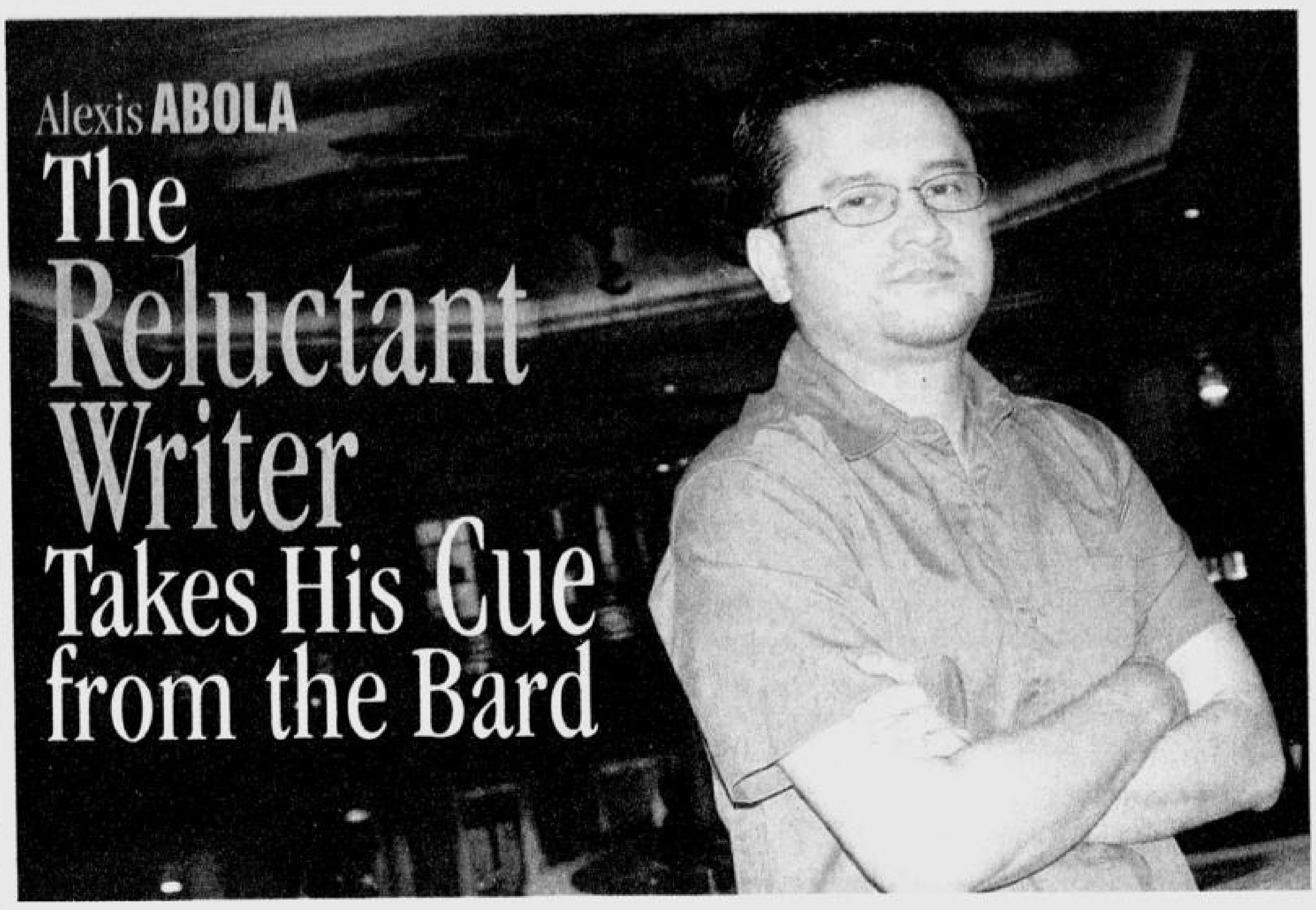
Alexis **ABOLA**

The Reluctant Writer Takes His Cue from the Bard



ALEXIS "Exie" Abola, whose engaging story of an eccentric professor sticking obstinately to his obsession with William Shakespeare was declared this year's best short story in English, is himself a fan of the Bard. "He's a great writer. What other reason do I need? But I'd like to think I'm more well-adjusted than my lead character. I hope I have a broader view." For one, this 37-year-old literature graduate of the Ateneo de Manila has been teaching at his alma mater since 1999, and has worked as an editor. For another, he's been married since 1996 to the former Hilda Kapauan, who also works at the Ateneo. Talk about beginner's luck, though: He won a Palanca in 2000 for his "autobiographical essay of sorts," "Many Mansions," his very first submission. This second Palanca is for one of two stories he wrote in Butch Dalisay's creative writing class, but it was also the first time he submitted any work of fiction. "I guess I just jinxed my chances for the next few years!"

Having Shakespeare as the gold standard by which lead character BD Maiquez judges most everything in his life was an idea that appealed to Abola, "not just because of Shakespeare's 'snootiness,' but because of what he symbolizes for us. BD didn't start with much, but eventually mastered something. It's a sign that he's overcome what he had to. But he's sticking to it not because of courage, but out of a kind of inertia. The rest of the world has gone somewhere else, and he was left behind."

Abola teaches Freshman English and is serendipitously teaching his first Shakespeare literature course this semester, as well. What does he like best about teaching? "The fact that you have to use your brain, constantly having to read, dealing with young people and seeing them learning and understanding things or coming to an insight that you might have had a hand in forming. You put up with all the frustration, and it balances out. Not a semester goes by when I don't reach a point where I complain and bitch. Then I make my peace with it and realize it's normal. If it doesn't happen, then I guess it doesn't matter as much."

Despite his disapproval of BD's "tunnel vision" and unhealthy obsession, Abola does see a bit of himself in the sad academic. "That's something at the back of the mind of every literature academic in a culture that does not read. If you want to specialize in that, prepare for a lonely life." In fact, one can debate with Abola as to whether the story's ending is a happy one or not. "Well, it is, kind of. He gets to escape the life that was slowly killing him. I wouldn't have had the nerve to do what he did, though."

What he has more trouble accepting is the label of "writer," and it's more out of practicality than false modesty, even after his two Palanca wins. "Inspiration? Deadlines and money are my inspiration," Abola says with a laugh. "Nothing inspires like deadlines! When I don't see the larger significance of things, that's when I have a hard time." Abola is working on his thesis for his MA in creative writing at the University of the Philippines, a collection of nonfiction pieces, "and hopefully a book next year, so I have 12 to 24 months to put together a collection of stories." Abola admits he's still "in denial. I still don't feel like a writer because I haven't come out with a book. I won't be comfortable with the label until I've put out something that's not completely shameful. This is a nice start, though."

Alya B. Honasan

Excerpt

from **"The Shakespeare Guy"**
by Alexis A. Abola
First Prize, Short Story

"BD, I'm sorry," she said as she stood and walked to the ledge. "I had no idea they were even thinking of asking you to leave. Oh no, it's my fault."

"Why?"

"I only asked George... to talk to you... about the way you teach."

"What about the way I teach?"

"I also suggested that the summer workshops on teaching lit be revived."

"Oh, is that so?"

"George didn't tell you?"

"No, I guess he forgot."

"Well, a few of the other teachers asked me if I could, you know, help out in designing some modules for certain works. So I told George I'd do it."

"And you would teach them?"

"Well, yes."

"Right. Me, I can teach only one author. But you, you're the only one who's good enough. And you'd play your CDs of So-and-so reading Austen or Dickens or Eliot, and you'd have your handouts with activities, with little grids to fill up and guide questions for the rich and illiterate."

"At least I can teach! You know, in the short time I've been here I've found out that I'm a good teacher. Yes, I am! I can do this. But you, how long have you been teaching! And after all this time... You can't even do one author right! Do you think reciting lines from Shakespeare is the best way to make students like him? Do your little elocution contests work? Your memorization tests? Do you even think it impresses us? Maybe 50 years ago it worked, when schools still shoved your heads into Latin phrasebooks and made you recite Horace or, or Pindar."

"The words must be spoken well! Great words must be spoken well! How are they going to learn to love Shakespeare if you do not recite the words as if they mattered?"

"It doesn't make sense to them, BD. His English is a foreign language to them. They don't have ears for it, not these kids. And why don't you care about anyone else but this one writer? There are many other good writers..."

"I only want to read the best."

"And I've seen your long tests. All you do is supply a passage and ask, who said this, what act, what scene. Oh God! That's just the wrong way to do it!"

He raised his hand and said very softly but clearly, "And what *is* the right way, ma'am?" When she didn't answer, he continued, in the same pained and mocking voice, "Please tell me, teacher. I want to know."

She took a step toward him and seemed about to utter an expletive, but it stuck in her throat, and all she could do was clench her teeth and grimace. She threw what remained of her cigarette to her feet, ground it with her right foot into the cement tile, then walked briskly back into the workroom, wisps of smoke dissipating about her.

Ten minutes later she returned, wanting to apologize, but he was gone. He wasn't in his cubicle, and neither was his worn briefcase.

Alfonso **DACANAY**

Writing the Words That Become Magic Onstage

FOR Alfonso "Alvin" Dacanay, who won his first ever Palanca for a one-act play this year after a number of tries, victory brought both elation and relief. "Finally, I've won! I finally got to know what it feels like," says the 30-year-old freelance writer of features, travel pieces and film and book reviews. "I have friends who have won several times, and I couldn't help but wonder what it was like. In many ways, it's better than I expected." The funny part was how the news spread. "I only told four people when I won! Word got around so fast, it's almost ridiculous."

A zealous long-time member of The Writers' Bloc, the group of creative writers headed by acclaimed playwright Rody Vera, Dacanay zoomed in on Bienvenido Santos' "The Day The Dancers Came" as inspiration for his work because "he's one of my most admired Filipino writers in English. My spin on it was the construction of the story as a memory play."

Indeed, Santos' characters, a pair of Filipino oldtimers in the United States coming to terms with lost dreams, come alive in poignant detail. "Am I a sad writer? Most of my output is serious. Creative writing for me is a long process. I plan everything out, and I'm very analytical. I'm thinking all the time, that's my process, and it's a problem for some of my friends." He wouldn't go as far as saying that his works are born of angst, though. "Angst is a legitimate source of inspiration and material, but it's a case-to-case basis. For some, it can really motivate. But not for me."

Dacanay earned his mass communications degree from St. Joseph's College and is now working on his M.A. in creative writing at the University of the Philippines. His vocation as a writer was clear from the beginning, despite writing admittedly "amateurish stuff. But I cannot imagine myself doing anything else, even if it's very clear that I'm not going to get rich doing this!" Thankfully for this youngest of three siblings, his parents have been "very supportive. They've always believed you should follow your bliss."

A great part of that bliss has been working with The Writer's Bloc, under the guidance of such leading lights as Vera and Rene Villanueva. "Rody taught me how to properly read a play, and exposed me to playwrights like Bertolt Brecht and Jean Genet."

Although Dacanay has also written short stories, his background in theater as a member of school and professional theater groups has shown him how words can transform on stage. "When you see your work performed, when you hear the lines you wrote being spoken on stage and see the story come to life with lights and music, there's this magical feeling. In fiction, it's magical only in your mind."

ABH

Excerpt

from **"First Snow of November"**
by Alfonso Dacanay
First Prize, One-Act Play in English

TONY exits, but FIL speaks as though he's still there.

FIL: There they were, who could have been my children—or yours, Tony—if I—or you—had not left home. But by the way they acted earlier, it was as if they had been briefed too well: Do not talk to strangers. Ignore their invitations. Be extra careful in the big cities like New York and Chicago. Beware of the oldtimers, the Pinoys. Most of them are bums. Keep away from them. Make sure you stick together at all times. Entertain only those

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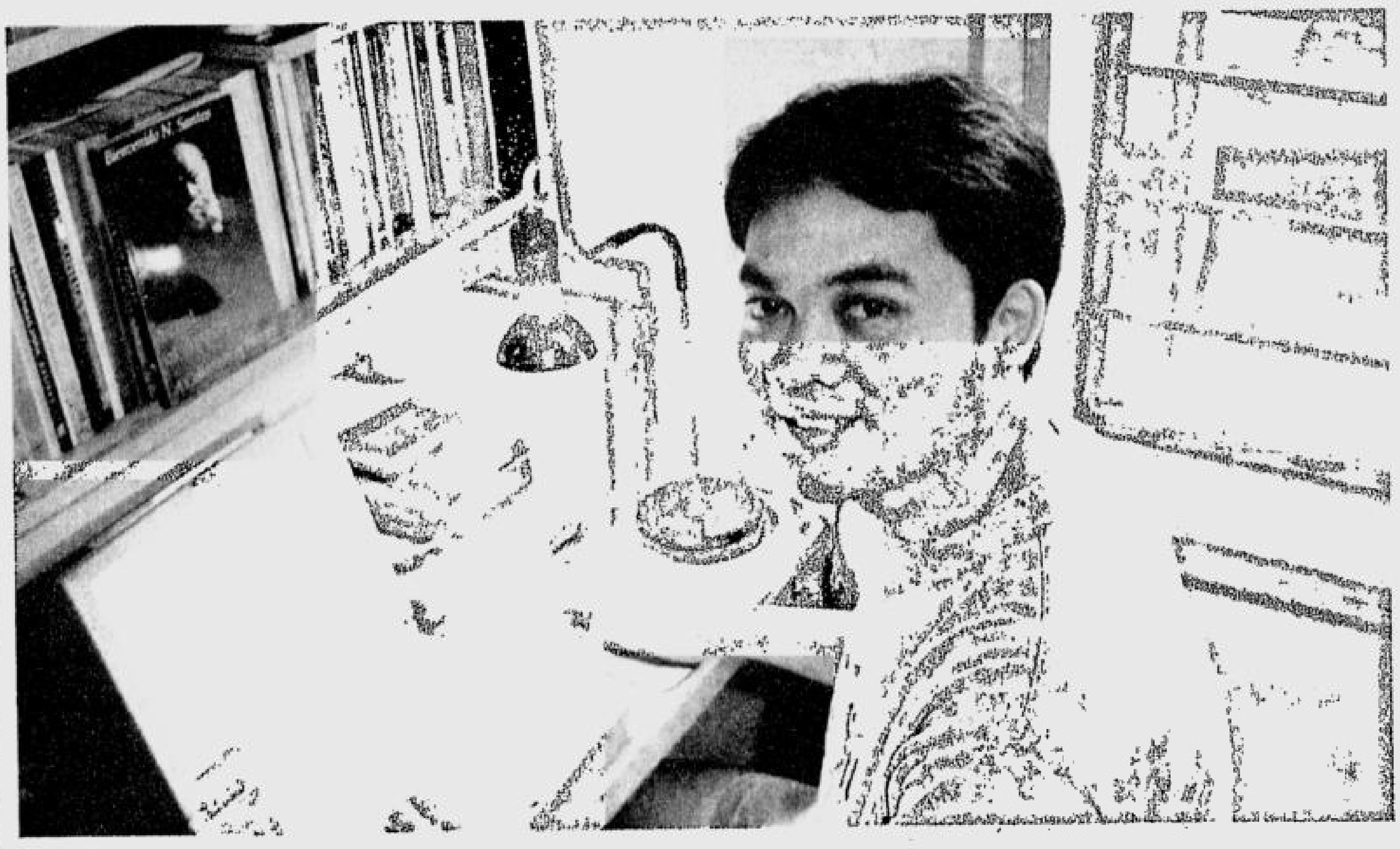


DON CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL AWARDS FOR LITERATURE

Complete List of 2005 Winners

HALL OF FAME
Manuel R. Buising
Luis P. Gatmaitan, M.D.

NOBELA
Grand Prize: "Unang Ulan ng Mayo" by Ellen Sicat

DULANG PAMPELIKULA
First Prize: "Hubog ng Langit" by Erlito G. Reyes
Second Prize: "Boy" by Veronica B. Velasco
Third Prize: "Blue Moon" by Allan A. Tijamo

DULANG PANTELEBISYON
First Prize: "Niños Inocentes" by Manuel R. Buising
Second Prize: "Pasalubong" by Elmer L. Gatchalian
Third Prize: "Bayad Utang" by Ma. Clarissa N. Estuar

DULANG GANAP ANG HABA
First Prize: "Baligho" by Reuel M. Aguila
Second Prize: "Si Marya at si Kiling" by Edward P. Perez, Jr.
Third Prize: "Masa" Rodolfo Carlos Vera

DULANG MAY ISANG YUGTO
First Prize: No winner
Second Prize: "Sa Loob ng Kawayan" by Joseph Patrick V. Arevalo
Third Prize: "Ateng..." by Vincent A. De Jesus

SANAYSAY
First Prize: "Tapok at Banlik" by Luis P. Gatmaitan, M.D.
Second Prize: "Anim na Sabado ng Beyblade" by Ferdinand Pesigan Jarin
Third Prize: "Segunda Mano" by Eugene Y. Evasco

KABATAAN SANAYSAY
First Prize: "Wahahahahahahahahaha!" by Kristina D.C. Javier
Second Prize: "Alaala ng Quiapo" by Jamaica Jane J. Pascual
Third Prize: "K" by Arnold Pantaleon Pascua II

TULA
First Prize: "Sa Pagitan ng mga Emerhensiya" by Joseph Rosmon M. Tuazon
Second Prize: "Buong-Buo" by Rebecca T. Añonuevo
Third Prize: "Una Prosa" by Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles

FUTURISTIC FICTION-FILIPINO
First Prize: No winner
Second Prize: No winner
Third Prize: "Vic" by Ruel Garcia Enoya

MAIKLING KUWENTONG PAMBATA
First Prize: "Tag-araw ng mga Ibong Hilaga" by Eugene Y. Evasco
Second Prize: "Ang Batang Nanaginip na Siya'y Nakalilipad" by Edgar B. Maranan
Third Prize: "Ang Kahon ni Lolo Yoyong" by Perry C. Mangilaya

MAIKLING KUWENTO
First Prize: "Mga Landas ng Pangarap" by Agustin Pagusara, Jr.
Second Prize: "Anay sa Dagat ng Asul" by Domingo G. Landicho
Third Prize: "Ang Santo Niño na Walang Ulo" by John Iremil E. Teodoro

MAIKLING KUWENTO-CEBUANO
First Prize: "Balyan" by Macario D. Tiu
Second Prize: "Bangka sa Kinabuhi" by Agustin Pagusara, Jr.
Third Prize: "Sesyon" by Josua S. Cabrera

MAIKLING KUWENTO-HILIGAYNON
First Prize: "Turagsoy" by Genevieve L. Asenjo
Second Prize: "Kaupod" by Christian F. Emague
Third Prize: "Daguob Sang Dagat" by Lester Mark P. Carnaje

MAIKLING KUWENTO-ILUKO
First Prize: "Goyo: Ti Dangadang Iti Ulep" by Danilo B. Antalan
Second Prize: "Ti Galienera, Ti Ili, Ken Tallo a Kronika" by Joel B. Manuel
Third Prize: "Dagiti Dir-i Ken Tagay iti Daradara a Bangabanga" by Daniel L. Nesperos

NOVEL
Grand Prize: "Salamanca" by Dean Francis Alfar

FULL-LENGTH PLAY
First Prize: "In the Land of the Giants" by Glenn Sevilla Mas
Second Prize: "Jyan Ken Pon" by Ma. Clarissa N. Estuar
Third Prize: "Something Happened" by Allan Lopez

ONE-ACT PLAY
First Prize: "First Snow of November" by Alfonso I. Dacanay
Second Prize: "Children of the Sea" by Glenn Sevilla Mas
Third Prize: "Welcome to Intelstar" by Christopher D. Martinez

POETRY
First Prize: "What Little I Know of Luminosity" by Joel M. Toledo
Second Prize: "Evasions" Yavanna S. Valdellon
Third Prize: "The Proxy Eros" by Ana Maria Katigbak

FUTURISTIC FICTION-ENGLISH
First Prize: "Treasure Islands" by Karen Manalastas
Second Prize: "Last Bus Ride" by Pia R. Roxas
Third Prize: "Espiritu Santos" by Pearlsha Abubakar

SHORT STORY
First Prize: "The Shakespeare Guy" by Alexis A. Abola
Second Prize: "Shut Up and ,Live" by Lakambini A. Sitoy
Third Prize: "At Merienda" by Maryanne Moll

SHORT STORY FOR CHILDREN
First Prize: "No Lipstick for Mother" by Grace Dacanay-Chong
Second Prize: "The Dancers of Malumbay" by Raissa Claire U. Rivera
Third Prize: "Menggay's Magical Chicken" by Nikki Alfar

ESSAY
First Prize: "From the Outlands with Love" by Lakambini A. Sitoy
Second Prize: "Metaphor Man and Migrant, I" by Aurelio S. Agcaoili
Third Prize: "Thorn" by Maria Angela Nicole S. Perreras

KABATAAN ESSAY
First Prize: "Stories" by Patricia Marie I. Ranada
Second Prize: "As Silly As It Gets" by Joan Paula A. Deveraturda
Third Prize: "Learning to be Filipino" by Katrina G. Gomez

Alfonso

...from page 6

who have been introduced to you properly.

(*Silence.*) What do I have to do? Scream out my good intentions? Beat my breast to prove to them how harmless I am, how I love them? Oh, but I love them. (*Pause.*) All I wanted was to talk to them, guide them around Chicago, spend money on them so that they would have something special to remember about us here when they return to our country. They would tell their family and friends—

The DANCERS come out on stage, one by one, before FIL finishes taking. They are all wearing costumes. They linger around him. Some face him; others group into twos or three, talking to each other as though talking to a family member or friend back home. They will divide the following lines among themselves:

THE DANCERS: We met a kind, old man, who took us to his apartment... It was not much of a place. It was old—like him... When we sat on the living room sofa, the bottom sank heavily. I think the springs were already broken... No, it's just because you're too fat!... Now that's too much! But what a cook that man was! And how kind! We never thought that rice and *adobo* could be that delicious. And the chicken *relleno*!... Oh yes, the chicken was truly delicious! Never had it tasted like that!... When someone asked what the stuffing was, he just smiled and said—

FIL: (*Touches his forehead and presses his chest.*) From heaven's supermarket.

THE DANCERS: He had this tape recorder which he called a "magic sound mirror"... And he had all of us record our voices.

FIL: *Pakiusap*, say anything in the dialect. Sing. Please, sing our *kundiman*.

The DANCERS sing a short kundiman.

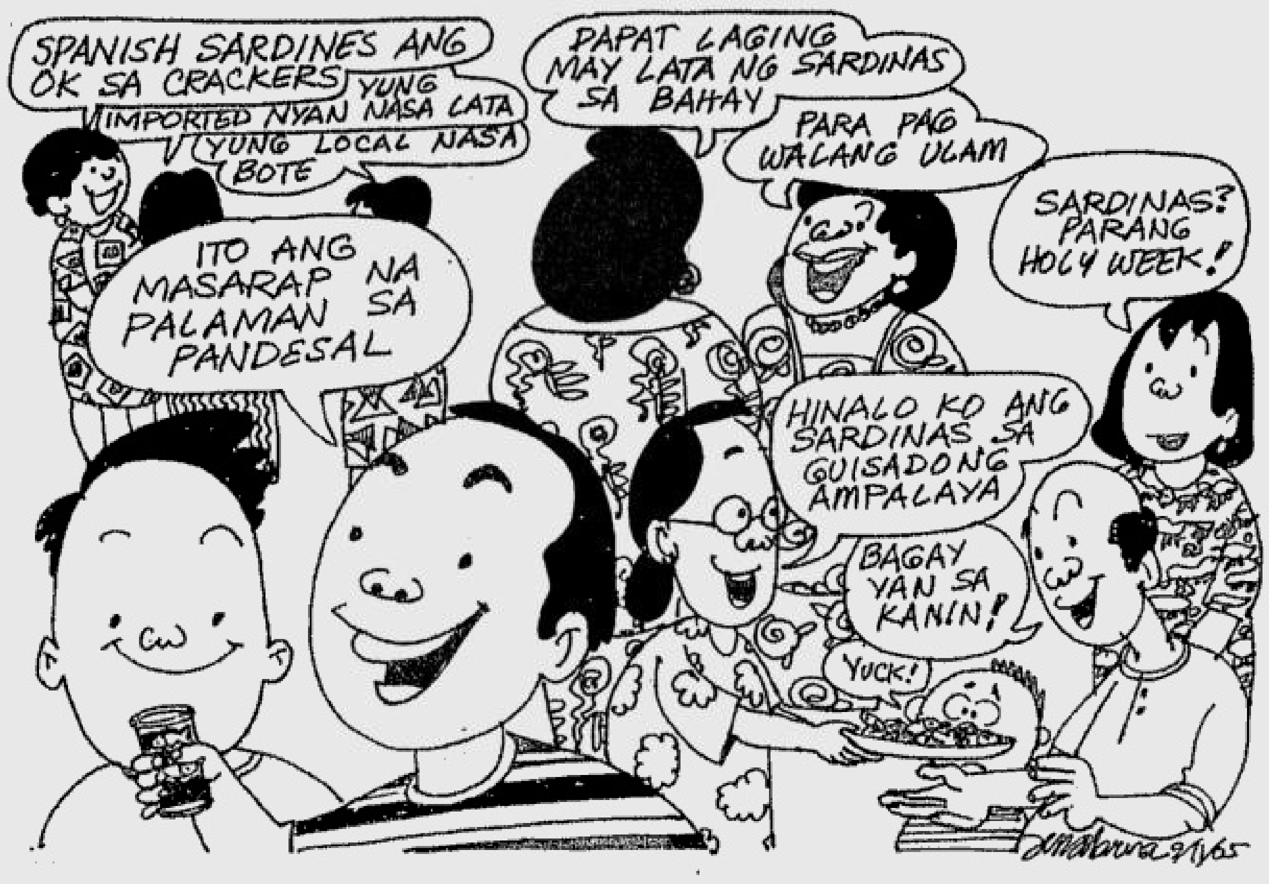
THE DANCERS: Oh, we had fun listening to the playback. Over and over!... And then he told us—

FIL: When you're gone, I shall listen to your voices with my eyes closed and you'll be here again. I won't ever be alone, not anymore, after this. From now on, I won't ever be alone.

THE DANCERS: We wanted to cry... But he looked very funny!... So we laughed... (*All at once.*) And he laughed with us!

Pinoy Nga!

Sardinas


SPANISH SARDINES ANG OK SA CRACKERS
YUNG IMPORTED NYAN NASA LATA
YUNG LOCAL NASA BOTE
PAPAT LAGING MAY LATA NG SARDINAS SA BAHAY
PARA PAG WALANG ULAM
SARDINAS? PARANG HOLY WEEK!
ITO ANG MASARAP NA PALAMAN SA PANDESAL
HINALO KO ANG SARDINAS SA GUISADONG AMPALAYA
BAGAY YAN SA KANIN!
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The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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Manuel

...from page 3

STEPHEN:

(*Buntong-hininga.*) MASAKIT TANGGAPIN, PERO... ANG BATA, KUNG NAGAGABAYAN LAMANG NG TAMA NG MGA MAGULANG... HINDI MALILIGAW. AT ANG PAGKALIGAW NA 'TO ANG NAGIGING PUNTIRYA NG MGA MASASAMANG ELEMENTO... TULAD NG MGA *PEDOPHILES*! (*Mapapailing.*) HANGGANG NGAYON ISA SILA SA PUMAPATAY SA MGA MUSMOS! (*Magbibigay-diin ang tinig.*) ISANG... NIÑOS INOCENTES... SA ATING PANAHON!

DINDO:

(*Matatawang bigla.*) TEKA, LIGAW KA NA, STEPHEN! ANG NINYOS INOSENTES AY PAGPUGOT NG MGA LALAKING SANGGOL SA PANAHON NI HERODES. AT PAGKATAPOS NG PASKO 'YON! BIYERNES SANTO NGAYON, STEPHEN... HINDI PASKO!

STEPHEN:

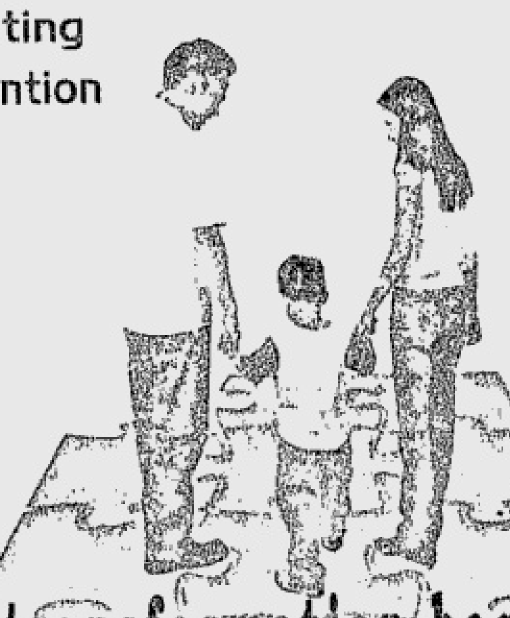
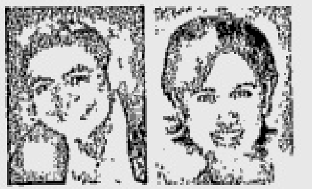
(*Mangingiti. Anyong makakaunawa.*) MANG DINDO, BAWA'T MINUTO, KAHIT HINDI PASKO O KAYA'Y MAHAL NA ARAW... MAY PINUPUGUTANG INOSENTE... LALAKI MAN O BABAE. MARAMING TULAD NI DAVE ANG NAGKALAT NA KAHIT SAAN... TANGGAP ANG URI NG PAMBIBIKTIMA SA KANILA. PASALAMAT TAYO, HANGGANG MAAGA, NASAGIP NATIN SI DAVE. PA'NO ANG IBA? (*Magtitiim-bagang*) DAHIL SA HAYOK NA ELEMENTONG 'TO... PINAPATAY NA NILA ANG KINABUKASAN NG MGA WALANG-MALAY NA 'TO... NA BALANG ARAW AY SIYANG BUBUWELTA NG GALIT SA MUNDO. KAYA DUMARAMI ANG KRIMINAL!

MENCHU:

AYAW KONG LUMABAS NA GAN'UN ANG ANAK KO! IINGATAN KO NA SIYA...

DINDO:

EWAN KO, STEPHEN! NATATAWA NA NGA LANG AKO KAPAG NAKIKITA KO KAYONG NAGDADADAKDAK SA TV. WALA RIN NAMAN KAYONG MAGAGAWA! HANGGA'T ME MAHIRAP.. HINDI MAWAWALA ANG KRIMINALIDAD!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In this truth, we cannot be divided.
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Dean Francis ALFAR

His Novel Approach

THERE are many unexpected, perhaps even fantastic things about Dean Francis Alfar. He is, after all, very particular about definitions. The tall 36-year-old is a partner in Kestrel IMC, an integrated marketing communications company, as well as publisher of Kestrel Studios, which publishes comic books locally, what Dean refers to as "grafiction."

Yet the standout quality in Dean goes beyond his being a passionate, prize-winning comic creator or a comic book fan. It goes beyond his owning the Megamall branch of Petty Pets. It goes beyond the malong he occasionally wears to formal affairs—such as the awards night. "I am of Muslim descent, from the Alonto family of Lanao. I'm actually a datu, and my Muslim name is Salahuddin Alonto. I was raised as a Christian but I am proud of my Muslim heritage. The malong I wear bears the colors and patterns of my family."

The confident, opinionated UP graduate wrote drama under the tutelage of the late Wilfredo Ma. Guerrero, and gravitated to fiction about the fantastic, like science fiction and fantasy, what he called "speculative fiction." Dean says "our country has a long tradition of the fantastic, with the old stories, myths and legends of times past. I believe that the fantastic is part of the Filipino culture, and deserves a place in Filipino literature as well."

It goes beyond the eight—eight!—Palanca Awards he's won, or the fact that his wife Nikki won her own Palanca this year (third in Short Story for Children). Is an Alfar writing dynasty in the offing? "Already, our daughter Sage (who is 3) is making up stories on her own. I wouldn't be surprised—in fact I'd be delighted—if she took after her parents. However, that's her choice to make in the future—but we can hope our genetic code kicks in," he laughs.

It's in that Dean has won the prestigious Grand Prize for Novel, which is only handed out every four years, and he is incredibly grateful and humbled by the company of other novel winners. "I actually feel like one of my characters, living in a magic realist scenario. It's surreal in a good way." He wrote "Salamanca," as part of National Novel Writing Month, where authors all over the world would attempt to complete a novel in a month's time. Dean wrote after work every day last November and the product was "Salamanca," which he describes as revolving around "the love story of two people, beginning in Palawan in the 1950s and ending 50 years later in Manila." Up next for the busy Dean will be more speculative fiction, including an anthology from Filipino authors, more comic books, keeping his blog hopping (http://deanalfar.blogspot.com) and perhaps even another novel. Now that is certainly something fantastic.

RSDV

Excerpt

from **"Salamanca"**
by Dean Francis Alfar
Grand Prize, Novel

The first two things Gaudencio Rivera was made aware of—within hours of arriving by carabao-drawn cart at the secluded town of Tagbaoran on the island province of Palawan—were these: that the most beautiful woman in creation dwelt by the river, and that it was pointless to even dream of being loved by her. He was informed that her name was Jacinta Cordova, and that her beauty was of such purity and perfection that the walls of the house she lived in had turned transparent long ago, to allow both sunlight and moonlight to illuminate her incandescence. The man who told him this—old, stooped, and possessed of an explosive whooping cough—threw in a trembling imprecation against the vagaries of youth, laughed, then insisted that his geriatric appearance was just a trick of light. Q

Reuel M. AGUILA

Crooks and the Politics of Convenience

THE writer's role, says Reuel Molina Aguila, first place winner in the full-length play in Filipino category, is to hold up a mirror to society. And he does just that in *"Balighô,"* the final episode in a trilogy of three-act plays he had previously written. The first, *"Satirika,"* won third in the 1981 CCP Playwriting Contest, while the second, *"Ligalig"* placed first in the same contest in 1986.

"Balighô" which means corruption, betrayal or wrongdoing (*"kabuktutan o kabaluktutan"*), might well express the sentiments in most of today's newspaper columns—the general feeling of frustration, unease and cynicism at the politics of convenience that has people casting a moist eye on public office before making a stand. Members of the academe, erstwhile activists and the fence-sitting middle class become vulnerable targets in Aguila's opus, as they fancy themselves powerbrokers after their inadvertent roles in Edsa 1 and 2.

The three plays are connected and over three decades, follow the same set of characters, most of whom are composite of real people, says Aguila. In fact, this creative writing professor at the University of the Philippines gleefully identifies the high-profile political analyst who has made a handsome living of his shifting loyalties. Trying to guess who the other characters are then becomes half the fun in reading this play.

Aguila, who wrote the final script for the movie *"Sakada"* based on the original story by Lualhati Bautista and Oscar Miranda, believes that writers can't help but become activists. "They're observant, critical and dream of better times. Sure they can live in an ivory tower, but even up there, the dusty ground is bound to bother them as they get choked by the polluted air."

When he's not teaching at UP's Filipino department, Aguila is busy organizing fellow writers into Akdang Bayan, "which encourages creative expression in all dialects, styles and form." The group, which takes after the venerable Galian sa Arte at Tula of the early 1990s, will be formally launched on September 16 at the UP College of Social Work, with 15 cd/books by 15 authors.

Aside from organizing writers, this perennial Palanca winner since 1975 has kept himself busy with writing jobs in the 17 years that he's been gone from the State University. He was head writer of the ABS-CBN children's program *"Bayani"* for three years, travelled to Japan for 1 1/2 years as a research scholar, worked at the Cultural Center, wrote documentaries on the side and became the country's representative to the Iowa International Writing Program.

Aguila, who's married with two children, turns 52 on September 27 and plans to mark the occasion with an anthology of erotic poems to be launched at Bistro '70 in Quezon City.

PAC

Excerpt

from **"Balighô"**
by Reuel M. Aguila
First Prize, Dulang Ganap ang Haba

DOM So, tinatanong ko kayong dalawa, bakit ang mga katulad ninyong masugid na naglingkod sa bayan ay ngayon tumatalikod sa bayan?

REY Kung magsalita ka naman Dom, parang nagtaksil na kami sa bayan. Bakit, iisa lang ba ang pamamaraan ng paglilingkod sa bayan? Ito lang ba yong paghawak ng armas?

DOM Dati kasi, ang pinagsisigawan ng kaliwa ay yan na nga. Na iisa ang pamamaraan upang makamit ang pagbabago; at yan ay ang rebolusyon. At ang rebolusyon ay maisasagawa lamang sa pamamagitan ng paghawak ng armas. Tama ba ako, Mr. Political analyst?

AL Well, tama in a way. Tama, dahil ganyan nga ang kanilang paniwala. Pero mali nang sabihin mong "dati" dahil hanggang ngayon ay ganyan pa rin ang kanilang paniniwala. Kaya nga hindi sila sumali sa EDSA. Kaya nga na-antagonize nila ang middle forces na handa namang tumulong sa pagbabago pero hindi kayang humawak ng armas.

DOM Katulad natin?

AL Katulad natin.

DOM Kaya sumali tayo sa legal, parliamentary advocacy struggles. At habang nalululon tayo sa legal, parliamentary, advocacy struggles, lalo tayong na-aantagonize sa pamamaraan ng Left. Masyado silang marahas. Kaya lalo tayong nahihirati sa panibagong lifestyle; konting luho sa katawan, wika nga. Na, sa kinalaunan ay nagiging necessity.
Kaya tumataas din ang antas ng ating pangangailangan sa buhay.
Na, mahirap i-sustain kung ordinary wage earner lang tayo.
Hanggang sa makisawsaw na rin tayo sa kaban ng bayan o kaya'y gumawa ng mga raket na dati nating kinamumuhian. Pero ngayon ay binibigyan pa natin ng katwiran na wasto lamang ang mga karumaldumal na ginagawa natin ngayon. At, sinisisi pa natin ang Kaliwa kumbakit tayo nagkaganito. (tatawa)
Ay, Berto, nasaan ka?

AL I beg your pardon, the last sentence. Hindi ko kilala si Berto.

LIB Oo nga, bakit wala si Berto. Hindi mo ba inimbitahan si Berto, Rey?

REY Paano ko maiimbitahan ang isang taong bumalik sa bundok. The last time ko siyang nakita ay kasama pa niya ang dalawa kong kaibigang ito. Nagtalo silang tatlo. I should say, nagsigawan at muntik magbunutan ng mga baril dahil sa pagkakaiba ng kanilang interpretasyon sa political line. Kaya ayon, nagpasyang magrectify ng error. Bumalik sa countryside sa piling ng mga mangmang na masa.

DOM Ay nasaan ang Kaliwa sa mga makasaysayang yugto ng ating bansa? Bakit wala sila ngayong nagkakagulo ang sentro at kanan.

REY Bakit mo hahanapin ang ayaw magpakita.
(tatawa)

TESS Rey, excuse me. I think it's time. Nandito ang mga inimbitahan mo. And obviously hindi makakarating ang pangulo sa munting victory partyng ito. Kaya gusto kong simulan ang ating party sa pamamagitan ng isang toast. Everybody, grab something to drink.. Gusto kong magpropose ng isang toast sa one and only husband ko, sa pagiging Undersecretary nya. Para sa kanya, I say, welcome Rey sa bungad ng corridors of power. Maging mabunga sana ang iyong panunungkulan. Q